

3. Material Assets

Introduction

- 3.1 The purpose of this Chapter is primarily to provide a confirmed position in relation to the grid connection offer for the facility given the issues raised by TLT Solicitors in their correspondence dated 30 June 2020 and objection no. 5218 submitted by Colin Buick of no-arc21.
- 3.2 It is suggested by these third parties that whilst three possible grid connection routes have been examined as part of the environmental information submitted to-date, a feasibility study on grid capacity has not been provided and there is therefore no certainty that a grid connection offer will be made by NIE. Objection no. 5218 goes onto further suggest that the grid connection offer obtained by the applicant falls short of the EREC G99 (g59) connection permit required.
- 3.3 Whilst not relevant to grid connection matters, a further letter from TLT Solicitors dated 02 June 2020 raises concerns in relation to the consideration of potential impacts on telecommunication networks arising from direct signal blocking, reflection and scattering as a result of the tall structures associated with the proposed development. These concerns are also responded to as part of this Chapter.

Grid Connection

- 3.4 Confirmation of the NIE grid connection offer is provided at Appendix 3.1 of this submission having also been sent previously to DfI Strategic Planning Division by e-mail on 27 July 2020.
- 3.5 This correspondence confirms that an offer has been made and accepted by applicant on 28 May 2020 and therefore the concerns raised by third parties regarding the locational appropriateness of the proposed EfW facility are unsubstantiated.
- 3.6 It is further noted that both SONI and NIE were re-consulted by DfI Strategic Planning Division for comment on the contents of TLT objection letter on 20 July 2020. Their responses have not been received at the time of writing.
- 3.7 Objection no. 5218 from Mr. Colin Buick on behalf of no-arc21 states that:
- 'the applicant has issued press releases in relation to recent Grid Connection offer from NI Electricity, we are well aware this fall way short of a EREC G99 (g59) connection permit we therefore request this be made available and sufficient time allowed to review conditions of connection'.*
- 3.8 As explained at Appendix 3.2 of this submission by Mullan Grid Consulting, a grid connection consultancy, 'G99 connection permits' relate to technical requirements for all generators connecting to the NIE network.
- 3.9 It is a requirement that generator installations are installed, tested and comply with the requirements of NIE Networks Engineering Recommendation G99/NI and any associated

protection settings as set out in the Distribution Code. G99 requirements are tested and witnessed by NIE during the connection process for the generator. This test is undertaken as one of the last requirements before the generator is allowed to energise onto the NIE system. At this stage NIE will witness the G99 documentation/permits.

- 3.10 Is it therefore not contested that a G99 permit will be required as noted by the third party but will only be provided at the latter stages of the connection process prior to energisation of the generator.

Telecommunication Networks

- 3.11 The TLT Solicitors correspondence dated 02 June 2020 refers to the potential impacts on telecommunication networks arising from direct signal blocking, reflection and scattering as a result of the tall structures associated with the proposed development.
- 3.12 It makes reference to the only 'point to point' link consideration provided in the EIA to-date relating to NIE's telecommunication networks managed by the Joint Radio Company (JRC) and that their previous 'no objection' position may likely have changed in the intervening period with new link corridors establishing in the area.
- 3.13 Further consultation has since taken place with JRC having provided them again with details of the proposal including the EfW stack co-ordinates. JRC confirmed by way of reply dated 15 July 2020 that the proposal remains cleared with respect to radio link infrastructure operated by NIE. A copy of their updated response is provided at Appendix 3.3.
- 3.14 Similarly, consultation has also taken place with NI Water, PSNI, Arqiva and Ofcom to identify any potential affected links in the vicinity of the proposal. To-date, responses have only been received from Arqiva and Ofcom – see also Appendix 3.3.
- 3.15 Ofcom responded on 20 July 2020 to advise that *'they can find nothing at this time'* and provide a link to general stakeholder advice on their website. It is noted that DfI Strategic Planning Division also formally consulted with Ofcom on 20 July 2020 and at the time of writing, their response remains outstanding.
- 3.16 Arqiva, who is responsible for providing the BBC, ITV and the majority of the UK's radio transmission network, responded on 27 July 2020 concluding that they have no concerns regarding the proposed development.
- 3.17 In the absence of any operator raising concerns, it has therefore been demonstrated that the proposed development will not result in any detrimental impact on telecommunication networks in the area. Notwithstanding, it must also be acknowledged that similar with any application for wind turbine or wind farm development, mitigation in the form of re-routing of a fixed link may also be possible should it be determined necessary.

Conclusions

- 3.18 In summary, the further clarification provided in relation to the connection offer addresses any third party concerns relating to the locational suitability of the application site and the ability to connect to the grid network. It has also been clarified that a G99 connection permit will be required at a later date. This cannot be provided until the latter stage of the connection process prior to energisation of the generator.
- 3.19 Further consultation has also been carried out in relation to potential impact on telecommunication link providers as a result of the proposed development. From those responses received from Ofcom, JRC and Arqiva to-date, it has been demonstrated that the proposal will not result in any adverse impact on their ability to operate.