

Meaford Energy Centre - Section 47 Planning Act 2008

Notice as to where and when the Statement of Community Consultation for the Meaford Energy Centre can be inspected

Introduction

Meaford Energy Limited (MEL) is proposing to construct, operate and maintain a combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) power station with an electrical capacity of up to 299 megawatts (MWe) at the Meaford Business Park in Staffordshire. The project will include an integral electrical connection and an integral gas connection.

Known as the Meaford Energy Centre (MEC), the project is designated as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008 and therefore requires a Development Consent Order (DCO) from the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change.

MEL has published a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) in accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008. The SoCC sets out how MEL proposes to consult people living in the vicinity of the MEC about the MEC. The SoCC sets out how MEL will carry out statutory consultation with local communities between 6 June 2014 and 7 July 2014 on its proposals for the MEC. A full copy of the SoCC is provided on the project's document library at www.Meaford-Energy.com and the SoCC is also available at the locations set out below. MEL's consultation approach is summarised in this notice.

Meaford Energy Limited

MEL is a joint venture partnership between Glenfinnan, a property investment and development company with extensive energy sector experience, and St. Modwen, one of the UK's largest regeneration specialists. St. Modwen also owns the Meaford Business Park, where it is proposed that the MEC is located. The partnership is currently progressing a number of CCGT power generation projects across the UK.

Environmental Information

MEL is required to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) under the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 (as amended) (the "EIA Regulations"). The EIA will consider the potential impacts, both positive and negative, of the MEC including air and water quality, noise, visual, traffic, local ecology, archaeology and heritage, socio-economics and cumulative impact.

To allow for full and meaningful consultation from 6 June 2014, MEL is publishing a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) in accordance with the EIA Regulations. The PEIR will present the initial assessment as to the likely significant environmental effects of the MEC and potential mitigation measures relating to any significant adverse effects. The PEIR will inform the Environmental Statement that is submitted as part of the application for a DCO for the MEC. The PEIR will be available at the inspection locations set out in this notice between 6 June 2014 and 7 July 2014 and copies will be provided to the relevant statutory consultees.

The planning process

The consenting process for DCO applications is set out in the Planning Act 2008.

The Planning Inspectorate (PINS) is the agency responsible for managing the examination process for NSIPs.

PINS will receive MEL's DCO application in 2014, undertake a thorough public examination of its content and then make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change. The Government's policies in relation to projects such as the MEC are set out in National Policy Statements (NPSs). NPS EN-1 (Energy) states that "gas will continue to play an important role in the electricity sector - providing vital flexibility to support and increasing amount of low-carbon generation and to maintain security of supply." The need for the Project is established through the NPSs and is therefore not a topic for consultation.

The recommendation from PINS on MEL's application for a DCO will be made in line with the relevant national policy statements relating to energy developments of this nature. It is the Secretary of State who will ultimately decide whether or not to make a DCO for the MEC.

Consulting the community

MEL will consult the community pursuant to the Planning Act 2008 between 6 June 2014 and 7 July 2014, a period of 32 days. During this time, the community will be invited to view illustrative designs and information, including the PEIR, on MEL's proposals for the MEC.

A full copy of the SoCC is now available on our website and is also now available at the below listed inspection locations. As set out in our SoCC, the following communication tools and methods will be used to notify the community of consultation:

Consultation website - www.Meaford-Energy.com will serve as the most up to date source of project information. Consultation documents, plans and supporting information will be provided in the website's document library.

Project leaflet - will be sent to residential and commercial addresses in a consultation zone that is set out in the SoCC. It will include a feedback form, provide contact details for MEL and include details on where further information can be found.

Public exhibitions - the community will be able to meet and question the project team at two public exhibition events and submit their feedback in person. An information display will explain the proposals and supporting documentation including plans, visualisations, the project leaflet, the SoCC and the PEIR will be made available. Events will be held at the following times and locations:

Wed 11 June 3pm to 8pm	Function Room, Lakeside Tavern Meaford Road, Meaford, Staffordshire, ST15 8UX
Thurs 12 June 3pm to 8pm	Barlaston Village Hall 1 Longton Road, Barlaston, Stoke-on-Trent, ST12 9AA

Local media - the community will be kept informed of the consultation through press releases and advertisements in local media

Presentations and meetings - if required, and where appropriate, presentations and meetings will be given to parish churches and elected representatives.

Inspection of documents (including the SoCC)

MEL will make the consultation documents noted above available at the following locations between 6 June 2014 and 7 July 2014. The SoCC is available at the below locations as from today's date:

Deposit Location	Opening hours
Staffordshire County Council, St. Chads Place Stafford, ST16 2LR	Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm
Stafford Borough Council Civic Centre , Riverside Stafford, ST16 3AQ	Monday to Thursday: 8.30am to 5pm, Friday: 8.30am to 4.30pm
Stone Library, High Street Stone, Staffordshire, ST15 8AT	Monday: 9am to 5pm Tuesday: 9am to 6pm Wednesday: 9am to 1pm Thursday: 9am to 5pm Friday: 9am to 6pm Saturday: 9am to 4pm

Submitting comments and suggestions

Those who wish to submit comments and suggestions during the formal statutory consultation period (6 June 2014 to 7 July 2014) on MEL's proposals will be able to do so through the following channels:

- By email: info@Meaford-Energy.com
- In writing: **Meaford Energy Limited, Local Dialogue, FREEPOST NAT3717, London, SE1 2BR**
- By telephone: **0800 319 6185**
- In person at exhibition events, meetings and presentations both verbally and via feedback forms
- An online comment form hosted on the project website www.Meaford-Energy.com

MEL will have regard to the consultation responses received during consultation.

Written consultation responses submitted during the consultation period will be duly recorded. Received responses may be submitted to PINS within, or alongside, a Consultation Report.

Feedback submitted verbally via the Freephone telephone line will be logged and summarised. Similarly, verbal feedback supplied at exhibition events and meetings will be summarised by MEL and may be included in the Consultation Report.

MEL would welcome your views on the MEC on or before 7 July 2014. Please include your name and an address when providing a response. Responses may be made public, subject to data protection laws.

Contact information

MEL's project team can be contacted by: Calling **0800 319 6185**, Monday to Friday, between 9:00am and 5:30pm. Emailing info@Meaford-Energy.com Writing to **Meaford Energy Limited, Local Dialogue, Freepost NAT3717, London, SE1 2BR**

Further information about MEL and the proposals for the MEC can be found at www.Meaford-Energy.com.

23 May 2014