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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 This Environmental Statement (ES) has been prepared on behalf of Eggborough Power Limited (EPL) (the Applicant) in relation to a proposed application (the Application) to be made to the Secretary of State (SoS) pursuant to the Planning Act 2008 (the Act), seeking an 'Order' granting development consent (a Development Consent Order, or DCO) for the construction and operation of a gas-fired power station, to be constructed on the site of the existing Eggborough coal-fired power station near Eggborough, North Yorkshire. The ES presents the findings of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

1.1.1 The DCO would provide the necessary authorisations and consents for the construction, operation and maintenance of a new gas-fired power station of up to 2.5 gigawatts (GW) electrical output and associated development (together defined as the Proposed Development). The Proposed Development would be located on land largely within the existing Eggborough coal-fired power station site (and associated land within the ownership of EPL), although additional land will be required for the proposed cooling water and gas pipeline connections to the north of the existing coal-fired power station site. All the land required for the Proposed Development is referred to in the ES as 'the Site'. All elements of the Proposed Development are entirely within the administrative boundary of Selby District Council (SDC), within North Yorkshire County.

1.1.2 This chapter is supported by Figure 1.1, provided in ES Volume II, which illustrates the Site location.

1.2 The Applicant

1.2.1 EPL owns and operates the existing 2 GW coal-fired power station at Eggborough, and owns a significant proportion of the land required for the Proposed Development.

1.2.2 EPL was acquired by EP UK Investments Ltd (EP UK) in late 2014; a subsidiary of Energetický A Průmyslový Holding (EPH). EPH owns and operates energy generation assets in the Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Germany, Italy, Hungary, Poland and the United Kingdom.

1.3 The Proposed Development

1.3.1 The Proposed Development comprises the construction and operation of a CCGT power station with a gross output capacity of up to 2,500 MW; comprising up to three high efficiency combined cycle gas turbines (CCGT) and associated steam turbines; and a gas-fired peaking plant and black start facility with a combined gross output capacity of up to 299 MW to be installed on the same Site. Subject to obtaining the necessary consents, construction is anticipated to start in early 2019 and be completed in 2022.

1.3.2 The Proposed Development will be located largely within the existing coal-fired power station site (and associated land within the ownership of EPL), with additional land required for the installation of an underground gas pipeline and associated Above Ground Installation (AGI) to connect the proposed power plant to the National Grid gas transmission network, and for part of the underground pipeline for the cooling water connection to the River Aire. The Site extends to approximately 102.5 hectares (ha) and comprises land within the existing coal-fired

power station site and land to the north associated with the cooling water and gas connections.

- 1.3.3 The location of the Site is shown in Figure 1.1 (ES Volume II). The Site and its surroundings are described in Chapter 3: Description of the Site. A detailed description of the Proposed Development is provided in Chapter 4: The Proposed Development.
- 1.3.4 The Proposed Development will provide vital new energy infrastructure required to ensure security of electricity supply to the UK. High efficiency CCGTs, alongside a number of renewables technologies, will form part of a diverse energy mix that will replace ageing coal and nuclear power stations which are due to close over the next five to ten years (including the existing Eggborough coal-fired power station). The need that exists for the Proposed Development is outlined in Chapter 6: Need, Alternatives and Design Evolution of this ES, which also describes the alternatives that have been considered during the evolution of the Proposed Development.
- 1.3.5 Environmental impacts arising from the Proposed Development have been studied systematically as part of the EIA process, and the results are presented within this ES. This ES builds on the environmental assessment work done, consulted on and reported in the Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) Report discussed in Section 1.7. The baseline for the assessment has been derived from measurements and studies in and around the Site. This is explained further in Chapter 2: Assessment Methodology, and in the methodology section of each technical assessment chapter.
- 1.3.6 The EIA process has considered impacts resulting from the enabling, construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development, and the ES proposes measures to eliminate, reduce or mitigate any significant adverse effects on the environment. It also identifies 'residual' impacts, defined as impacts remaining following the implementation of mitigation measures.
- 1.3.7 The EIA also considers the potential cumulative impacts of the Proposed Development with other relevant known proposed or consented schemes, as outlined in Chapter 20: Cumulative and Combined Effects. An important scheme which is being considered within the cumulative effects assessment is the eventual demolition of the coal-fired power station. This is likely to take place while the Proposed Development is under construction and/or operational. Further details are set out in Chapter 20.

1.4 The DCO Process

- 1.4.1 The Proposed Development falls within the definition of a 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project' (NSIP) under Section 14(1)(a) and Sections 15 (1) and (2) of the Act as it is an onshore generating station (not generating electricity from wind) in England that will have a generating capacity greater than 50 MWe output. As such, a DCO is required to authorise the Proposed Development in accordance with Section 31 of the Act.
- 1.4.2 Consent for the Proposed Development will be granted by the SoS by way of a DCO. A DCO has the effect of granting consent for a development in addition to a range of other consents and authorisations, as well as removing the need for some consents (such as planning permission). Section 115 of the Act also provides that a DCO can include consent for '*associated development*', that is, development that is not part of but is associated with the NSIP. This may be development that supports the construction or operation of the NSIP, which helps to

address the impacts of the NSIP or is of a type normally brought forward with the particular type of NSIP (here the generating station).

- 1.4.3 An application for development consent is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, acting on behalf of the SoS. Subject to the application being accepted, which will be determined within a period of 28 days following receipt of the application, the Planning Inspectorate will then examine it and make a recommendation to the relevant SoS, who then decides whether to grant a DCO.

1.5 The Relevant EIA Regulations

- 1.5.1 The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 ('the 2017 EIA Regulations') came into force on 16 May 2017, replacing the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 ('the 2009 EIA Regulations'). The 2009 Regulations however continue to apply to certain projects, pursuant to the transitional arrangements set out in Regulation 37 of the 2017 EIA Regulations. That provides that (amongst other circumstances) where a request has been made that the Secretary of State adopts a scoping opinion, prior to the date of the commencement of the 2017 EIA Regulations, then the 2009 EIA Regulations "*continue to apply to any application for an order granting development consent*". EPL submitted such a request and it was received by the Secretary of State on 17 August 2016, before 16 May 2017 (the commencement of the 2017 EIA Regulations), and therefore the 2009 EIA Regulations are those that apply to the DCO Application.

1.6 The EIA Scoping Exercise

- 1.6.1 The Proposed Development falls within Schedule 1 of the 2009 EIA Regulations, and therefore constitutes 'EIA development'. As such an EIA is being undertaken and this ES summarises the EIA work undertaken.
- 1.6.2 The issues that EPL considered the EIA needed to address were identified in the EIA Scoping Report submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in August 2016 (Appendix 1A (ES Volume III)). The EIA Scoping Report was developed following initial consultation with a number of statutory consultees and was informed by the EIA team's experience working on a number of other power station projects, including those in the vicinity of the Site. The SoS' Scoping Opinion was received on 28th September 2016, including the formal responses received by the Planning Inspectorate from consultees (Appendix 1B (ES Volume III)). Key issues raised in the Scoping Opinion are summarised at the start of each technical chapter of the ES, and all issues have been considered during the EIA process.

1.7 The Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) Report

- 1.7.1 The PEI Report was published for formal (statutory) consultation (EPL's consultation was pursuant to Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008) on the Proposed Development in January 2017, in accordance with the 2009 EIA Regulations. 'Preliminary environmental information' is defined in the 2009 EIA Regulations as "*information referred to in Part 1 of Schedule 4 (information for inclusion in environmental statements) which (a) has been compiled by the applicant; and (b) is reasonably required to assess the environmental effects of the development (and of any associated development)*".

- 1.7.2 In order to enable consultees to understand the likely environmental effects of the Proposed Development, the PEI Report presented preliminary findings of the environmental assessments undertaken up to that point in time. This allowed consultees the opportunity to provide informed comment on the Proposed Development, the assessment process and preliminary findings through a consultation process prior to the finalisation of this ES.

1.8 Environmental Statement

- 1.8.1 This ES is submitted as part of the suite of DCO application materials. The information presented in the ES describes the findings of the EIA.
- 1.8.2 Table 1.1 below summarises where the requirements of Part 1 of Schedule 4 of the 2009 EIA Regulations have been addressed in the ES.

Table 1.1: Requirements of Part 1 of Schedule 4 of the 2009 EIA Regulations

Requirement	Where information is provided
A description of the physical characteristics of the whole development and the land-use requirements during the construction and operational phases.	Chapter 3: Description of the Site, Chapter 4: The Proposed Development and Chapter 5: Construction Programme and Management
A description of the main characteristics of the production processes, for instance, nature and quantity of the materials used.	Chapter 4: The Proposed Development
An estimate, by type and quantity, of expected residues and emissions (water, air and soil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat, radiation, etc) resulting from the operation of the proposed development.	Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Chapter 8: Air Quality, Chapter 9: Noise and Vibration, Chapter 11: Water Resources, Flood Risk and Drainage, and Chapter 12: Geology, Hydrogeology and Land Contamination
An outline of the main alternatives studied by the applicant and an indication of the main reasons for the applicant's choice, taking into account the environmental effects.	Chapter 6: Need, Alternatives and Design Evolution
A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the development, including, in particular, population, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, including the architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the inter-relationship between the above factors.	Chapters 8-20 (technical assessments) Baseline Conditions sections
A description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment, which should cover the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects of	Chapters 8-20 (technical assessments) Likely Impacts and Effects sections

Requirement	Where information is provided
the development, resulting from: (a) the existence of the development; (b) the use of natural resources; (c) the emission of pollutants, the creation of nuisances and the elimination of waste, and the description by the applicant of the forecasting methods used to assess the effects on the environment.	
A description of the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and where possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment.	Chapters 8-20 (technical assessments) Development Design and Impact Avoidance and Mitigation and Enhancement Measures sections
A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 5 of this Part.	Non Technical Summary
An indication of any difficulties (technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered by the applicant in compiling the required information.	Chapters 8-20 (technical assessments) Limitations or Difficulties sections

1.8.3 Feedback on the PEI Report received from all consultees (including statutory bodies, land owners, other potentially affected people, and the local community and members of the public), along with a summary of other issues raised during consultation relevant to the ES, have informed the EIA process and the findings presented in the ES. The approach to consultation and how EPL has had regard to the responses received are detailed in the Consultation Report (Application Document Ref. No 5.1) and summarised in each technical chapter of this ES. The consultation process is described further below.

1.8.4 Ongoing refinement of the concept design together with feedback from the consultation process have resulted in the evolution of the project design and definition since the PEI Report. This is described in detail in Chapter 6: Need, Alternatives and Design Evolution.

1.9 Consultation

1.9.1 Consultation is integral to the preparation of DCO applications and to the EIA process. The views of consultation bodies and the local community serve to focus the environmental studies and to identify specific issues that require further investigation, as well as to inform aspects of the design of the Proposed Development. Consultation is an on-going process as part of the design development.

1.9.2 The Act requires applicants for development consent to carry out formal (statutory) pre-application consultation on their proposals. There are a number of requirements as to how this consultation must be undertaken that are set out in the Act and related regulations, including:

- Section 42 of the Act requires the applicant to consult with ‘prescribed persons’, which includes certain consultation bodies such as the Environment Agency and Natural

England, relevant statutory undertakers, relevant local authorities, those with an interest in the land, as well as those who may be affected by the development;

- Section 47 of the Act requires the applicant to consult with the local community. Prior to this, the applicant must provide a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) to the relevant local authorities for comment. The SoCC must set out the proposed community consultation and, once agreed with the relevant local authorities, a SoCC Notice must be published in local newspapers circulating within the vicinity of the land in question. The consultation must then be carried out in accordance with the final SoCC;
- Section 48 of the Act places a duty on the applicant to publicise the proposed application in the 'prescribed manner' in a national newspaper, The London Gazette, local newspapers circulating within the vicinity of the land and certain marine publications; and
- Section 49 places a duty on the applicant to take account of any relevant responses received to the consultation and publicity that is required by Sections 42, 47 and 48.

1.9.3 EPL has adopted a two stage approach to pre-application consultation on the Proposed Development. Stage 1 consultation (non-statutory consultation) was carried out during September/ October 2016, and Stage 2 (statutory) consultation was carried out during January/ February 2017.

1.9.4 As part of its consultation strategy EPL undertook to afford the same weight to the responses received to the informal (non-statutory) consultation as to those received to the formal (statutory) consultation and to take account of all responses in accordance with the requirements for statutory consultation within the Planning Act 2008.

1.9.5 The pre-application consultation undertaken by EPL is briefly outlined below and more fully documented within the Consultation Report (Application Document Ref. No. 5.1):

- Informal (non-statutory) consultation - this encompassed early meetings with NYCC, SDC, other relevant local authorities and key consultation bodies; informal consultation with the local community within the immediate vicinity of the Site in September/ October 2016, including a number of public exhibitions; and informal consultation with the relevant local authorities on the preparation of the SoCC for the community consultation under Section 47;
- Formal (statutory) consultation, comprising:
 - Section 47 – formal consultation on the SoCC with the relevant local authorities; publication of the SoCC Notice in December 2016; and non-statutory consultation with local community in accordance with the agreed SoCC in late September 2016, including a number of public exhibitions;
 - Section 42 – formal consultation with 'prescribed persons' (relevant consultation bodies); between January and February 2017;
 - Section 48 – formal publicity of the proposed application in January 2017; and
 - EIA related consultation – this has taken place alongside the informal and formal pre-application consultation on the Proposed Development, with EIA scoping taking place shortly after the initial meetings with local authorities and key consultation bodies and during the early part of the informal community consultation; and the PEI Report was produced for and published alongside the Section 42, 47 and 48 consultation and publicity; in addition to dialogue with key consultees during and after the scoping and PEI stages.

- 1.9.6 EIA related consultation forms an important part of the overall pre-application consultation process. The Scoping Opinion from the SoS and consultation on the PEI Report in particular have informed the development of the EIA and assisted in the preparation of the final ES. Furthermore, a key characteristic of the EIA consultation has been on the on-going dialogue with the key consultees following the EIA scoping process and the preparation of the PEI Report to inform the final ES.
- 1.9.7 The issues that have been raised through consultation and how these have been considered and addressed within the design evolution of the Proposed Development and the EIA are set out in throughout this ES and in the Consultation Report (Application Document Ref. 5.1). Issues raised that relate to specific environment aspects considered in the ES are listed in each relevant technical chapter.

1.10 References

Planning Inspectorate (2015) *Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Seven (Environmental Impact Assessment: Preliminary Environmental Information, Screening and Scoping)*. Version 5, March 2015.