

AQ 2.1 *Black Start Facility*

The Applicant

The Environment Agency

The Environmental Statement (ES) [APP-046] states that the Black Start facility will not operate more than 50 hours per annum. The ExA is concerned that, should the Environmental Permitting Regime allow this figure to be increased, potential additional effects would not have been assessed in the ES.

Notwithstanding the Applicant's response to the ExA's Written Question AQ 1.14 [REP2-014], explain whether a restriction of hours for the operation of the Black Start facility, as assessed in the ES should be secured in the draft Development Consent Order (DCO) [REP3-003], or cite existing provisions in the draft DCO which serve this purpose.

The environmental permit will not explicitly state that there is a limit of 50 hours per annum. It will, however, state that the black start units can only be used for 'black start' purposes and for testing runs and that they cannot be used to provide any service to National Grid.

The permit will not state a limit as, in the extremely unlikely event that there are repeated outages of the grid, the site must be able to bring itself back online. For the same reason, the development consent order should not be used to restrict the hours for the black start unit.
