
1 Introduction

1.1 This Environmental Statement has been prepared by RPS, on behalf of Brunner Mond and E.ON Energy from Waste UK Limited (hereafter referred to as the applicants). It accompanies an application to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for consent to construct and operate a Sustainable Energy Plant (SEP) on land at the former Lostock Power Station in Cheshire, Northwich. The application is made pursuant to the Electricity Act 1989, Section 36, and includes a request to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change to direct that planning permission for the project shall be deemed to be granted (pursuant to the Electricity Act 1989, Schedule 8, para 7(1)).

1.2 The location of the site is shown in Figure 1.1 and the site itself (and its boundary) is shown on Figure 1.2.

Statutory Framework and Purpose of the ES

1.3 Environmental Impact Assessment is a means of identifying the main and likely significant effects of a project on the environment in order that these effects, and the potential for controlling or reducing them, are considered as part of the consenting process. Such effects are reported in an Environmental Statement (ES).

1.4 The legislative requirement for EIA is set out in the European Directive 97/11/EC on the Assessment of Effects of Certain Public and Private Projects on the Environment. The EIA requirements for generating stations are implemented through the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2000 (the Regulations), as amended.

1.5 The applicants consider that the project falls within the description of development given in Schedule 2 (1) of the Regulations:

'A generating station, the construction of which (or the operation of which) will require a section 36 consent but which is not Schedule 1 development'

1.6 And may have significant effects of the environment by virtue of such factors as its nature, size or location, taking into account the criteria set out in Schedule 3 of the Regulations. In consequence, the applicants have undertaken an EIA for the Project.

1.7 This ES has been prepared in accordance with the Regulations and contains:

- a) *'at least the information referred to in Part II of Schedule 4; and*
- b) *such of the information referred to in Part I of Schedule 4 as is reasonably required to assess the environmental effects of the development and which, having regard in particular to current knowledge and methods of assessment, the applicant can*

reasonably be required to compile, taking into account the terms of any scoping opinion given.'

- 1.8 For the avoidance of doubt, the specified information within Schedule 4 Parts I and II is detailed in Appendix 1.1. The information supplied in this ES provides a clear and objective understanding of the main and likely significant effects of the project upon the environment.

Structure of the ES

- 1.9 This ES has been structured to allow all relevant environmental information to be easily accessible. Volume 1 includes the main text and the Non-Technical Summary of the ES. The description of the site and its setting is provided in Chapter 2, with the description of the project set out at Chapter 3. Information relating to the main alternatives considered during the evolution of the project and the reasons for the choices made is found within Chapter 4. Chapter 5 outlines the methodology adopted for the EIA. The remainder of Volume 1 contains topic by topic environmental information (see Table 1.1 below).
- 1.10 Figures and appendices to accompany the main text of the ES are provided in Volume 2. These include specialist reports providing relevant background and technical information.

Table 1.1– Structure of the Environmental Statement

Volume 1: Main Text	
Non-technical Summary	Provides a summary of the ES document in non-specialist language.
Chapter 1	Introduction
Chapter 2	The Site and its Setting
Chapter 3	Description of the Development
Chapter 4	Need and Alternatives
Chapter 5	EIA Methodology
Chapters 6 to 14	Description of the findings of the specialist environmental assessments in relation to the likely significant environmental effects. Chapter 6: Traffic and Transport Chapter 7: Air Quality Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Effects Chapter 9: Ecology and Nature Conservation Chapter 10: Hydrology and Flood Risk Chapter 11: Geology, Hydrogeology and Land Contamination Chapter 12: Noise & Vibration Chapter 13: Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Chapter 14: Social and Economic Effects
Volume 2: Figures and Appendices	
Figures and appendices, including specialist reports forming technical appendices to the main text.	

Further Information

- 1.11 A Non-Technical Summary document has been produced which describes the project, its location and environmental effects in non-technical language. Copies of this ES, including the Non-Technical Summary, can be viewed at the local planning authority's offices or at Northwich Local Library. The address for viewing copies is:

Cheshire West and Chester Council
Wyvern House, The Drumber
Winsford
CW7 1AH

And

Northwich Local Library
Witton Street
Northwich, Cheshire
CW9 5DR

- 1.12 Comments, queries or requests for information concerning the Environmental Statement should be addressed to:

RPS
Mallams Court
18 Milton Park
Abingdon
Oxford OX14 4RP
Quoting reference JNP2227B.

- 1.13 Further copies of the main text of the ES are available from RPS (at the address above) at a cost of £250, including the figures and appendices. The ES is available on CD Rom at a cost of £10. Copies of the Non Technical Summary are available free of charge.