

**BRECON BEACONS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
PLANNING, ACCESS AND RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE**

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL RELATED MATTER – UPDATE FOR NOTING

**Hirwaun Power Project
14/10745/IPC**

Helen Rice, Principal Planning Officer

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the proposal to erect a 299MWe gas fired power station at the Hirwaun Industrial Estate within the administrative area of Rhondda Cynnon Taf County Borough Council (RCT) but in very close proximity to the Brecon Beacons National Park boundary.

The proposal constitutes a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the terms of the Planning Act 2008 and therefore, the applicant, Hirwaun Power Limited submitted an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) on 21 March 2014 to the Planning Inspectorate, who duly formally accepted the application on 15 April 2014.

Proposed Development

The proposal includes:

- Power generation plant – a Simple Cycle Gas Turbine (SCGT) gas fired power generating station capable of providing up to 299MWe with up to 5no. 35m high stacks, operating on a “peaking” basis i.e. to provide electricity at peak times only and therefore will not operate on a 24 hour basis.
- Gas pipeline connection
- Underground electrical connection via Rhigos Substation

A visual presentation of the proposed scheme will be provided to Members at PAROW.

Determination process

Following acceptance of the application by the Planning Inspectorate, the application will proceed to be determined through a formal Examination process whereby an appointed Panel of Inspectors (the Examining Authority) will preside over the examination and determine the application.

In accordance with the relevant regulations, Officers’ have already submitted Relevant Representations outlining the key areas of concern that the Authority has in relation to the

proposal. This is attached at Enclosure 1. The submission of relevant representations has the effect of the Authority being formally registered as an Interested Party.

A pre-examination meeting is scheduled to take place on 23 July 2014, where the Examining Authority will outline the determination process. In addition, the pre-examination meeting will seek to finalise the timetable for the submission of information and evidence, a draft of which has already been provided and is enclosed at Enclosure 2. Interested parties must abide by the strict deadlines imposed by the Examining Authority, otherwise their representations may be disregarded by the Panel. Any updates following the pre-examination meeting will be provided verbally to Members at PAROW.

At present, the first crucial deadline for the Authority is the 21 August 2014 whereby the Examining Authority has requested that the following documents must be submitted for them to be considered:

- **Written representations** – to elaborate on the relevant representations and to set out the Authority's case in full
- **Statement of Common Ground** – a document that confirms which areas the Authority is in agreement with the applicant (e.g. site location, proposal, methodologies) as well as highlighting the areas where we are in disagreement.
- **Local Impact Report** – a report setting out the impact of the development on the National Park which the Examining Authority is duty bound to take into account when determining the application.

Officers are therefore currently in the process of preparing the above documentation. However, due to the timetable and the PAROW committee cycle, Officers will be unable to report the above to PAROW ahead of their submission to the Planning Inspectorate. Nevertheless, an update enclosing the responses will be provided at the next available PAROW meeting on 9 September 2014.

Proposal

That Members note the content of the report and enclosures.