

APPENDIX A:
CONSENTING HISTORY OF THE SPALDING ENERGY PROJECT

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A.1 Introduction

A.1.1 This Appendix provides further background information on the consenting history of the existing Spalding Energy Project (SEP).

A.2 The Existing Spalding Energy Project

A.2.1 In August 1996, InterGen submitted an application for SEP under Section 36 of the 1989 Electricity Act. In addition, the application sought a direction that planning permission be deemed to be granted under Section 90 of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act.

A.2.2 Within the application, the basic elements of SEP comprised:

- (a) Two gas turbine generators and two heat recovery steam generators (HRSGs), including associated stacks;
- (b) One steam turbine generator;
- (c) Condensing plant, and a water-based mechanical-draft cooling tower system with drift eliminators and plume abatement;
- (d) Ancillary plant and equipment; and,
- (e) Necessary buildings.

A.2.3 In terms of the environmental assessments / studies, the application was accompanied by the August 1996 Environmental Statement comprising:

- Non-Technical Summary¹;
- Environmental Statement Volume 1: Main Report²; and,
- Environmental Statement Volume 2: Technical Annexes³.

A.2.4 Following submission of the application, the overall project (covering SEP and its associated components) was subject to further design and refinement. At the time, the associated components comprised:

- (a) An Above Ground Installation (AGI) and 7.4 km underground gas pipeline, for a natural gas supply to the site connecting into the National Grid Gas Transmission System ((formerly Transco) Feeder 7 Pipeline;
- (b) An electrical substation and a 5.8 km overhead electricity line, for the electricity dispatch to the National Grid Electricity Transmission System; and,
- (c) A 27.0 km underground water pipeline, for a water supply for the cooling tower system connecting into the Trent-Witham-Ancholme system.

A.2.5 To cover the updates from the further design and refinement process, in December 1996, the application was supplemented by the December 1996 Cumulative Impact Assessment⁴ (CIA).

A.2.6 The December 1996 CIA presented the results of the cumulative impact assessment for the construction and operation of the overall project beyond the individual impact assessments for the construction and operation of the individual components.

A.2.7 Subsequently, following a review and assessment of water resources issues relating to SEP and the use of a water-based cooling tower system, the Environment Agency and SECL resolved that the best practicable environmental option (BPEO) for the Spalding location was an air-cooled system.

¹ 'Spalding Energy Project: Environmental Statement – Non-Technical Summary' (Environmental Resources Management, 19 August 1996).

² 'Spalding Energy Project: Environmental Statement Volume 1 – Main Report' (Environmental Resources Management, 16 August 1996).

³ 'Spalding Energy Project: Environmental Statement Volume 2 – Technical Annexes' (Environmental Resources Management, 16 August 1996).

⁴ 'Spalding Energy Project: Assessment of Cumulative Impacts' (Environmental Resources Management, 4 December 1996).

- A.2.8 Other than the cooling system, the land take and basic elements of SEP remained unchanged.
- A.2.9 To cover the change in cooling system, in March 1997, the application was further supplemented by the March 1997 Environmental Statement Supplementary Note⁵ (ESSN).
- A.2.10 The March 1997 ESSN presented the results of the review of the implications on the results and conclusions of the previous impact assessment for a change in cooling system and, where necessary, presented updated impact assessments and additional measures for the construction and operation of an air-cooled system.
- A.2.11 On 15 November 2000, the original consent was granted for SEP under Section 36 of the 1989 Electricity Act. The original consent was accompanied by a direction that planning permission be deemed to be granted under Section 90 of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act. Together, these (the original consent and the direction that planning permission be deemed to be granted) comprise the existing consent for SEP.
- A.2.12 The existing consent for SEP was originally granted to InterGen. On 13 May 2002, InterGen transferred the benefit of the existing consent for SEP to Spalding Energy Company Limited (SECL) (a wholly owned subsidiary of InterGen).

A.3 Associated Authorisation: The Gas Connection

- A.3.1 SEP burns natural gas, which is supplied to the site via a connection into the National Grid Gas Transmission System Feeder 7 Pipeline. Natural gas is the primary fuel and no back-up fuel is required. The connection comprises:
- (a) An AGI and ancillary development near Wragg Marsh; and,
 - (b) A 7.4 km underground gas pipeline from the AGI to the site.
- A.3.2 On 25 March 1997, planning permission (Ref: H22/0056/97) was granted under the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act for the AGI and ancillary development near Wragg Marsh. On 11 February 2002, a planning permission renewal (Ref: H22/0019/02) was granted under the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act for the AGI and ancillary development near Wragg Marsh.
- A.3.3 On 15 December 2000, consent was granted under Section 1 of the 1962 Pipelines Act for the 7.4 km underground gas pipeline from the AGI to the site. The consent was originally granted to InterGen. Subsequently, on 14 May 2001, InterGen transferred the benefit of the consent to SECL.
- A.3.4 In terms of environmental assessments / studies, the applications for the planning permission and the consent were supported by 'Spalding Energy Project Gas Pipeline: Environmental Statement' (Penspen Environmental, dated September 1996).

A.4 Associated Authorisation: The Electrical Connection

- A.4.1 The electricity generated is dispatched to the National Grid Electricity Transmission System. The connection comprises:
- (a) A connection into the National Grid Spalding North Substation adjacent to the south of the site; and,
 - (b) A 5.8 km overhead electricity line.
- A.4.2 On 11 October 2001, consent was granted under Section 37 of the 1989 Electricity Act for the electrical substation and the 5.8 km overhead electricity line. The consent was granted to National Grid.
- A.4.3 In terms of environmental assessments / studies, the application for the consent was supported by 'Spalding Energy Project Proposed 400 kV Overhead Transmission Line: Environmental Statement' (National Grid, September 1996).

⁵ 'Spalding Energy Project: Environmental Statement – Supplementary Note' (Environmental Resources Management, 11 March 1997).

A.5 Associated Authorisation: Environmental Permit

- A.5.1 During operation, activities on the site are undertaken in accordance with an Environmental Permit.
- A.5.2 SECL already holds an Environmental Permit for SEP (EPR/BK0701IW). On 24 August 2001, the original Environmental Permit was granted for SEP. In May 2020, the latest version (V005) was issued under the 2016 Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations.