

**Planning for
New
Infrastructure**

DLP BRIEFING NOTE 32

Prepared by
DLP Planning Ltd

November 2010



DLP Planning Ltd

Bedford
Sheffield
Reading
Bristol
Cardiff

Disclaimer

DLP Consulting Group Ltd, and its constituent companies disclaims any responsibility to the client and others in respect of matters outside the scope of this Report. This Report has been prepared with reasonable skill, care and diligence, is the property of DLP Consulting Group, and is confidential to the client, DLP Consulting Group Ltd accepts no responsibility of whatsoever nature to third parties, to whom this report has been provided.

Further to the government's Draft National Planning Statement (NPS) on energy and related matters, issued in October 2009 (see [Client Briefing 10](#)), the coalition government have published revised Statements for a further period of consultation until 21 January 2011. These will be considered alongside the 3000 responses submitted in response to the previous consultation.

Once the NPSs have been formally 'designated' (adopted), they will be a primary consideration for the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC), or its proposed replacement **the Major Infrastructure Planning Unit** when making decisions on applications for development consent under the Planning Act (2008).

Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1)

One of the key changes to EN-1 is the revised commentary on need, particularly in reference to **electricity transmission and distribution** ("*a significant need...specifically for new overhead lines of 132 kV and above*") and for oil pipelines.

A second change relates to **Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)** with a government priority being four demonstration projects, which also require essential supporting infrastructure such as pipelines and storage. New combustion power stations (over 300MW) will need to be constructed *carbon capture ready*, and coal-fired power stations will have to demonstrate CCS on at least 300MW of capacity.

This updated EN-1 also reflects the guidance offered in PPS5 in respect of the desirability of preserving heritage assets.

National Policy Statement for Fossil Fuel Electricity Generating Infrastructure (EN-2)

EN-2 provides the basis for decisions on proposals of over 50MW generating capacity. The most significant change from the 2009 draft guidance is its reference to good accessibility (to existing transport infrastructure) being desirable. This reinforces a requirement that new energy projects have to have regard to transport sustainability.

National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3)

EN-3 governs the following proposals: biomass/waste (50MW capacity); offshore wind (100MW) and onshore wind (50MW).

It confirms that an additional 25GW capacity may be planned offshore. It sets out the technical considerations and also the impacts that the IPC must take into account for offshore wind farms, such as biodiversity, effects on the intertidal and subtidal zones, fishing, the historic environment, navigation/shipping, other infrastructure and seascape.

The main considerations listed for the determination of applications for onshore windfarms include access tracks, lifetime of the proposal, biological and geological conservation, the historic environment, landscape and visual impact, noise and vibration, shadow flicker and traffic and transport.

The draft guidance clarifies that the onshore infrastructure associated with offshore wind comprise inappropriate development if in the Green Belt, however, EN-1 explains the requirement that applicants demonstrate that energy infrastructure is not inappropriate, or the exceptional circumstances that justify its location in the Green Belt.

National Policy Statement for Gas Supply Infrastructure and Gas and Oil Pipelines (EN-4)

EN-4 clarifies its application to:-

- Underground gas storage and LNG facilities that (a) have a storage capacity likely to be at least 43 million m³ of gas, or (b) has a projected delivery flow rate (DFR) of at least 4.5 million m³ of gas per day;
- Gas reception facilities with a projected maximum flow rate of at least 4.5 million m³ per day;
- Gas transporter pipelines which are a) in wider than 800mm in diameter and at least 40km in length or b) likely to have a significant environmental effect;
- Pipelines at least 16.093km (10 miles) long (i.e. which would otherwise require consent under s1 of the Pipe-lines Act) and any diversions to such pipelines.

Draft National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5)

EN-5 covers transmission systems (through 400kV and 275kV lines), distribution systems (lower voltage lines e.g. 132kV and connecting end-users to substations) and associated infrastructure, has been updated to give further advice on avoiding 'birdstrike' and the considerations attaching to locating infrastructure underground.

Draft National Policy Statement for Nuclear Power Generation (EN-6)

EN-6 lists the sites that the Government has judged to be potentially suitable for new nuclear power stations by 2025. The Statement notes that the IPC or its replacement may consider applications for consent for nuclear power stations on sites not included in the Statement, and notes that consent will not necessarily be forthcoming at the eight identified sites, namely :-

- • Bradwell;
- • Hartlepool;
- • Heysham;
- • Hinkley Point;
- • Oldbury;
- • Sizewell;
- • Sellafield; and
- • Wylfa.

Other Matters

It should be noted that the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change has ruled out a Severn Barrage, explaining that, *the Feasibility Study concludes there is no strategic case for a tidal scheme generating energy in the estuary; the costs and risks would be excessive compared to other low-carbon options; and, there is uncertainty over regulatory-compliance.*

The coalition government believes wind energy, carbon capture and storage and nuclear generation represent better options for taxpayers and consumers alike. The coalition government do not intend to review Severn tidal power until at least 2015.

Finally, the Government launched the National Infrastructure Plan on 25 October, which although covering a wide range of topics and crossing departmental bodies, confirms the importance of planning in delivering the necessary infrastructure (including energy, transport, waste and digital). It advises that the following planning matters will be published by DCLG in the very near future:-

- **Revised process for major infrastructure planning (by end of 2010);**
- **Updated timetable for NPSs for remaining infrastructure sectors (by end of 2010);**
- **Localism Bill (November 2010);**
- **Response to the Penfold Review on non-planning consents (November 2010).**

At DLP, we believe our role to be not just realising the immediate aims of our clients, but also monitoring what will need to be done to provide a full and informed service in future. Whilst we are aware that the emerging NPS documents largely deal with overarching strategic issues that will have little or no direct impact on many of the projects we manage, we will continue to monitor their progress, with a view to advising clients who do need to know, or even those who merely express an interest, what the main provisions of government policy are as the guidance moves towards adoption.

In the event that you would like to become more closely involved in the progression of any of the NPS documents, DLP would be delighted to discuss matters with you with a view to making representations on your behalf during any stage of the preparatory process. Or instead, if you would simply like to know a little more about the emerging NPS framework, we would be very happy to tailor further information and recommendations that best meet your specific interests.

Bedford (Design)

3rd Floor
8 Goldington Road
Bedford
MK40 3LG
T 01234 261 266
F 01234 353 715

Bedford (Planning)

4 Abbey Court
Fraser Road
Priory Business Park
Bedford
MK44 3WH
T 01234 832 740
F 01234 831 266

Bristol

2A High Street
Thornbury
Bristol
BS35 2AQ
T 01454 410 380
F 01454 410 389

Cardiff

Sophia House
28 Cathedral Road
Cardiff
CF11 9LJ
T 029 2064 6810

Reading

2 Richfield Place
12 Richfield Avenue
Reading
RG1 8EQ
T 0118 939 1004
F 0118 939 1005

Sheffield

11 Paradise Square
Sheffield
S1 2DE
T 0114 228 9190
F 0114 272 1947

briefings

BEDFORD

DLP Planning Ltd
4 Abbey Court
Fraser Road
Priory Business Park
Bedford
MK44 3WH

t 01234 832 740
f 01234 831 266

bedford@dlpconsultants.co.uk

DLP Design Ltd
8 Goldington Road
Bedford
MK40 3LG

t 01234 261 266
f 01234 347 413

bedford@dlp-design.co.uk

BRISTOL

DLP Planning Ltd
DLP Transportation Ltd
2A High Street
Thornbury
Bristol
BS35 2AQ

t 01454 410 380
f 01454 410 389

bristol@dlpconsultants.co.uk

CARDIFF

DLP Planning Ltd
28 Cathedral Road
Cardiff
CF11 9LJ

t 029 2064 6810

cardiff@dlpconsultants.co.uk

READING

2 Richfield Place
12 Richfield Avenue
Reading
RG1 8EQ

t 0118 939 1004
f 0118 939 1005

reading@dlpconsultants.co.uk

SHEFFIELD

11 Paradise Square
Sheffield
S1 2DE

t 0114 228 9190
f 0114 272 1947

sheffield@dlpconsultants.co.uk

