

**Draft National  
Planning  
Statement**

**DLP BRIEFING NOTE 10**

Prepared by  
**DLP Planning Ltd**

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## **Draft National Planning Statements**

On 9<sup>th</sup> November 2009, the Government published the first set of draft National Policy Statements (NPS) for public consultation. Once finalised, the NPS will provide the framework for future decisions by the Infrastructure Planning Committee (IPC) on individual applications (See our earlier Client Briefing '**National Infrastructure Projects: The New Decision Making Process**').

Each NPS is accompanied by an Appraisal of Sustainability, which is also proposed for consultation. Issues relating to the need for a specific type of infrastructure will not be debated again, and it is therefore important for stake holders and other interested parties to let their views be known now.

The Overarching National Energy Infrastructure Policy Statement is supplemented by technology specific NPS for:

- Renewable Energy Generation
- Fossil Fuel Power Stations
- Gas Supply Infrastructure, Gas and Oil Pipelines
- Electricity Networks
- Nuclear Power Stations
- Ports

Consultation on these NPS will close on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2010, except for that on Ports, which closes 15<sup>th</sup> February 2010.

## **Summary of the Draft National Policy Statements**

### **Overarching National Energy Infrastructure Policy**

This NPS establishes the overarching national policy for major energy infrastructure provision in England and Wales. The supplementary technical statements must be read in accordance with this and together will form the primary basis for IPC decisions on energy infrastructure applications for the future.

The NPS sets out a diverse energy mix to deliver the new electricity generating capacity requirements. It sets out key principles and a series of criteria and impacts which will guide the IPC when deciding applications. In the event of a conflict with existing planning policy, the NPS will be followed.

### **Renewable Energy Generation**

This NPS covers large energy generation from on shore wind, biomass and waste plants (over 50MW generating capacity) and off shore wind (over 100 MW generating capacity). It does not cover wave and tidal energy.

### **Fossil Fuel Power Stations**

This NPS covers the provision of large coal, gas and oil fired generating infrastructure over 50 MW in capacity.

### Gas Supply Infrastructure, Gas and Oil Pipelines

This NPS covers large underground gas storage and liquid natural gas facilities; large gas reception facilities; gas transporter pipelines conveying gas to at least 50,000 potential customers; and oil and gas cross-country pipelines of over 10 miles in length.

### Electricity Networks

This NPS covers above ground electricity power lines for the long distance transfer of electricity (275kV and 400kV, usually on pylons) and distribution systems (lower voltage power lines (132kV and above) usually on towers/poles) and associated infrastructure, e.g. sub stations.

### Nuclear Power Stations

This NPS establishes the need for new nuclear power stations, the locations considered to be potentially suitable, likely impacts which could result and measures which a developer will be expected to take into account to reduce adverse impacts.

### Ports

This NPS applies to major developments, located at either an existing or a new port and each adding at least 500,000 teu (a teu is a twenty-foot equivalent unit) of containers; 250,000 roll-on roll-off units, mainly lorries, unaccompanied trailers or trade vehicles; or 5 million tonnes of other types of cargo.

### **What can DLP do?**

At DLP, we believe our role to be not just realising the immediate aims of our clients, but also keeping a keen eye on 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.

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