



**Asesiad o
Ddatganiad Amgylcheddol**

**Assessment of
Environmental Statement**

gan Alwyn B Nixon BSc MRTPI
Arolygydd a benodir gan Weinidogion Cymru
Dyddiad: 16/10/2020

by Alwyn B Nixon BSc MRTPI
an Inspector appointed by the Welsh Ministers
Date: 16/10/2020

Ref: DNS/3236340

Site address: Land off Newlands Road, Cardiff CF3 2EU

- The Environmental Statement which is the subject of this assessment has been submitted in relation to the application for Development of National Significance (DNS) in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017.
 - The application is made by Môr Hafren Bio Power Limited.
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Introduction

1. An Environmental Statement (ES) was prepared to support a DNS application which has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for determination.
2. The ES was produced in response to a Scoping Direction, dated 25 October 2019, issued on behalf of the Welsh Ministers.

Procedural Matters

3. After an initial review of the ES, on 1 October 2020 the Planning Inspectorate issued the Applicant with a request for further information under Regulation 24 of The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017 ("the 2017 EIA Regulations").
4. The full detail of the further information request is provided in **Annex 1** to this report, but can be summarised under the following headings: Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), further detail on chosen technology, duration of construction phases, transport movements during operation, and other minor clarifications and corrections.
5. The further information was provided by the Applicant on 9 October 2020, within an addendum to the ES, a draft CEMP, a draft Landscape and Ecological Management Plan, and an updated planning application document reference list. This review considers the ES as submitted, and the further information provided by the Applicant.

Proposed Development

6. The proposed development as described on the application form is for construction and operation of an Energy Recovery Facility, including the formation of a new access on to Newlands Road and ancillary infrastructure.
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Completeness of Environmental Statements

7. The aim of an ES is to provide a systematic and objective account of the significant environmental effects likely to arise from the proposed development, including sufficient information to verify the conclusions and identify the source of the information provided. Regulation 17 and Schedule 4 of the 2017 Regulations specifies the information to be included in an ES. My assessment of completeness is based on these requirements.

Description of the Development

8. Chapter 3 of the ES describes the application site and its surroundings. The site is within the Trowbridge area of Cardiff, adjacent to the South Wales railway line, on 1.67 ha of brownfield land at the edge of the Wentloog Industrial Area.
9. Chapter 4 of the ES describes the proposed development, with cross reference to an indicative site layout. Chapter 4 highlights the heights of key components of the built development.
10. The ES Addendum provides more detail on the process of the chosen technology, which is a moving grate combustion system for solid refuse derived fuel and also provides more detail about the duration of phases within the construction period. Together, the ES and ES Addendum provide a description of the development which is satisfactory.

Description of the reasonable alternatives

11. The consideration of the main alternatives is set out in Chapter 5 of the ES. The alternatives considered were in relation to the site location, technology used, site layout and design, and transport options.
12. The description of the main alternatives considered by the Applicant is satisfactory.

Description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected

13. The ES includes ten aspect chapters (Air Quality, Air Quality and Traffic, Health, Noise, Ecology, Landscape and Visual Impact, Transport, Cultural Heritage, Water Resources, and Flood Consequences and Drainage). There are also chapters on cumulative effects, and on the socio-economic context. This is consistent with the scope of assessment set out in the Scoping Opinion issued by the Planning Inspectorate.
14. Each aspect chapter in the ES sets out relevant baseline conditions of the environment likely to be affected. The aspects of the environment that are likely to be significantly affected are sufficiently described.

Description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment

15. The overall EIA methodology is outlined in section 2.3 of the ES and is based on the Scoping Opinion issued by the Planning Inspectorate. Specific methodologies are described under each aspect chapter of the ES. Modelling used for Air Quality assessments (Chapter 6 and 7 of the ES) Noise assessment (Chapter 9 of the ES) Transport (Chapter 12 of the ES) and Flooding (Chapter 15 of the ES).
16. The ES Addendum clarifies how the estimated number of HGV movements during the operational phase of development has been derived. Together, the ES and ES Addendum sufficiently describe the EIA methodology.

17. Each aspect chapter concludes the likely significance of effects of the development on the environment. There is inconsistency in how this information is presented between each chapter, but I am satisfied that the conclusion of effects is sufficiently described within the ES.

Prevention and / or mitigation measures

18. Where relevant, the ES describes mitigation measures embedded within the design of the proposed development, and additional mitigation measures are set out where relevant under each aspect chapter where significant effects have been identified. Following the Planning Inspectorate's request for further information, a draft CEMP has been provided, and the ES Addendum describes how measures within the draft CEMP will mitigate effects identified within the ES.
19. Mitigation measures have also been identified as a result of the assessments of Noise, Landscape and Visual, Transport, Cultural Heritage, and Water Resources.
20. After mitigation, Chapter 18 of the ES concludes that the proposed development is not likely to have significant effects on any aspects of the environment.
21. The ES sufficiently describes measures that have been identified to prevent and mitigate significant negative effects.

Indication of any difficulties in compiling the required information

22. As identified above, the ES has been compiled using accepted methodologies. The ES identifies limitations to the assessment where relevant, under each aspect chapter and technical appendix. These limitations are mainly in relation to modelling uncertainty, and ecological surveys. I am satisfied that where limitations were identified in the assessment methodology, the assumptions made are clearly set out.

Provision of a Non-Technical Summary

23. A non-technical summary has been provided which includes the information provided under Regulation 17 and paragraphs 1 to 8 of Schedule 4 of the 2017 EIA Regulations. The non-technical summary is sufficient.

Overall Conclusions

24. I conclude and confirm that the Environmental Statement submitted by Mör Hafren Bio Power Limited on 4 September 2020 and supplemented by the additional information provided on 9 October 2020 contains the level of information identified in Regulation 17 and Schedule 4 of the 2017 EIA Regulations and is complete for the purposes of those Regulations.

Alwyn B Nixon

Inspector

Annex 1

Further information requested by the Planning Inspectorate on 1 October 2020 under Regulation 24 of The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017:

Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)

- Further detail is requested on the mitigation measures intended to be included within the CEMP. This can be provided as additional information to be inserted into the text of the ES, or as an appended draft of the CEMP. In particular, paragraphs 10.5.3 and 10.5.4 of the ES should identify what specific on-site habitat elements and particular species protection measures will be incorporated in the CEMP, and also in the LEMP referred to in paragraph 10.5.5 of the ES. In addition, Sections 14.5 and 14.6 of the ES are too cursory. Paragraph 14.5.8 should be expanded to explain in what ways the effects identified at paragraphs 14.5.2-7 will be managed via the CEMP, and then summarised in Table 14.6 of the ES.

Further detail on chosen technology

- Further detail is requested regarding the process technology selected, beyond the outline provided at paragraphs 5.3.9 and 5.3.19 of the ES. The applicant is asked to add clarity to the ES and make it more explicit as to the technology that has been selected and provide more detail on the inputs required to achieve the required combustion (i.e. the amount of oxygen and any other facilitating materials, including the amounts required, how these will be provided to the site, where stored, and the level/frequency of any associated vehicular movements).

Duration of construction phases

- Paragraph 4.8.2 of the ES which sets out the key construction phases fails to identify the duration of each key phase within the 36-month overall construction timescale. Further detail is requested to identify the duration of each key phase of construction, which is integral to understanding the level of significance of the various construction impacts and should be specified for clarity at paragraph 4.8.2 of the ES.

Transport movements during operation

- Further justification is requested, to explain how the estimated number of HGV movements (80 two-way HGV trips per day) has been derived. The ES should provide a detailed breakdown of how the anticipated levels of feedstock (200,000 tpa), residue (40,000 tpa) and any other HGV trips routinely generated by the facility operations translates into the 80 two-way HGV trip figure.

Additional clarification/corrections

The following are minor errors that need correcting, with specific examples of where these are found in the ES.

- Some tables have "Error! Reference source not found" flags in the right-hand column headers (e.g. tables 9.21 and 9.22).
- There are some erroneous references to the EA and the revised NPPF (2019), including at paragraphs 14.5.19 and 14.5.20 (p 368).
- There are some erroneous references to various further details being submitted at reserved matters stage (e.g. paragraphs 10.6.4 and 18.1.8). To clarify, this is a full

application and further detail if needed can only be regulated by means of imposed conditions.