

STAGE 1 – INITIAL EIA SCREENING ASSESSMENT

1 Case Details		
A	Appeal case reference	
	DNS/3251435	
B	Brief description of development	
	Gas peaking plant with a capacity of 49.5MW	
2 EIA Screening Details		
2A Schedule 1		
	Is the project Schedule 1 development as described in Schedule 1 of the EIA Regulations?	No
	<i>If Yes, under which description of development? If No, consider whether project is 'Schedule 2' development below in part 2(B).</i>	
2B Schedule 2		
(i)	Is the project listed as a description of development under Column 1 of Schedule 2 of the EIA Regulations?	Yes
	<i>If Yes, under which description of development? If No, EIA is not required.</i>	
	3i	
(ii)	Does the project change or extend development described in paragraphs 1 to 12 of Column 1 of schedule 2, where the change or extension may have SIGNIFICANT* adverse effects on the environment?	N/A
	<i>If Yes, provide reasons for your answer below. *If unsure, discuss with PET. Proceed to point (iii).</i>	
	N/A - not a change or extension	
(iii)	Is the project located wholly or partly within a ' Sensitive Area ' as defined by Regulation 2 of the EIA Regulations?	No
	<i>If Yes, state which area and move to Question 3. If No, proceed to point (iv) below.</i>	
(iv)	Are the applicable thresholds/criteria in Column 2 exceeded / met?	Yes
	<i>If Yes, note which applicable threshold/criteria. If No, EIA is not required.</i>	
	Exceeds threshold	
3 LPA / Welsh Ministers' Screening		
(i)	Has the LPA issued a Screening Opinion (SO)?	No

(ii)	Have the Welsh Ministers issued a Screening Direction (SD)?	No
4	Environmental Statement (ES)	
	Has the applicant/appellant supplied an ES for the current or previous (if reserved matters or conditions) application?	No

Is a detailed screening assessment (Section 5) required?

If Yes has been answered in response to either 2B(iii) or 2B(iv), send to relevant team to undertake detailed screening assessment.

If No has been answered for both questions, or the questions are not applicable, start appeal.

Sign-off	
Signature	Ifan Gwilym
Date	14/5/20

STAGE 2 – DETAILED EIA SCREENING ASSESSMENT

As per Schedule 3, Para 3: When considering the potential impact, take into account; (a) magnitude / spatial extent / population likely to be affected; (b) nature of impact; (c) transboundary nature; (d) intensity & complexity; (e) probability; (f) expected onset / duration / frequency & reversibility; (g) cumulation with existing and / or approved development; (h) the possibility of effectively reducing the impact.

5 Detailed Screening Questions		
Questions to be considered	Yes/No/Unknown – provide description	For 'Yes/Unknown', are effects likely to be significant? <i>Include consideration of features or measures to avoid or prevent what might otherwise be significant effects</i>
CRITERION 1. CHARACTERISTICS OF DEVELOPMENT		
Question 1(a) Size and design of the Development		
Will construction, operation or decommissioning of the Project involve actions which will cause physical changes in the locality (topography, land use, changes in waterbodies, etc.)?	Yes. Change of use of 0.45ha of undeveloped land to electricity generating station.	Due to the nature and scale of the proposed development, any effect is unlikely to be significant.
Question 1(b) Cumulation with Existing and/or Approved Development		
Are there any other factors which should be considered such as: - consequential development which could lead to environmental effects? - the potential for cumulative impacts with other existing or planned activities in the locality? - any plans for future land uses on or around the location which could be affected by the project? - transfrontier impacts?	Wrexham County Borough Council (the LPA) were consulted, and identified that the site adjoins a potential solar park promoted by the Council, but they do not expect cumulative impacts. Natural Resources Wales (NRW) do not consider that the Air Quality Assessment has appropriately considered potential in-combination/ cumulative impacts as plans and projects within 10km should have been considered.	Due to the nature and scale of the proposed development, and its location, based on the available information I do not consider that significant cumulative effects are likely in EIA terms.
Question 1(c) Use of Natural Resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity		
Will construction or operation of the Project use natural resources such as land, water, materials or energy, especially any resources which are non-renewable or in short supply?	Yes. Some materials used in construction and decommissioning. During Operation, the 11 gas engines will consume natural gas to produce electricity.	The materials consumed in construction / decommissioning should be limited due to the scale of the project. As a STOR, the development should be used in times

5		Detailed Screening Questions	
Questions to be considered		Yes/No/Unknown – provide description	For 'Yes/Unknown', are effects likely to be significant?
			of peak electricity demand; this should mean intermittent short bursts of operation (no more than a few hours at a time). Unlikely significant effect on resource consumption.
Question 1(d) Production of Waste			
Will the Project produce solid wastes during construction or operation or decommissioning?		Yes. Some waste will be produced during construction / decommissioning. Minimised by use of best practice.	Due to the nature and scale of the proposed development, any effect on waste generation is unlikely to be significant.
Question 1(e) Pollution and Nuisances			
Will the Project involve use, storage, transport, handling or production of substances or materials which could be harmful to human health or the environment or raise concerns about actual or perceived risks to human health?		No.	N/A
Will the Project cause noise and vibration or release of light, heat energy or electromagnetic radiation?		Yes – some during construction and decommissioning. During operation there will be noise produced by the gas engines.	I am satisfied that, whilst there may be negative impacts in respect of noise, these are unlikely to be significant in terms of the EIA Regulations. This is supported by the comments of the Environmental Health Officer at the LPA.
Will the Project release pollutants or any hazardous, toxic or noxious substances to air , or lead to risks of contamination of land or water (including surface waters, groundwater, coastal waters or the sea)?		The development will involve emissions to air, especially during active operation. NRW highlight that the proposal is within 600m of a Source Protection Zone and is to be located on potentially made ground.	Gas is a relatively clean fuel source. I am satisfied that, as with noise generation, the short periods of operation means that the development is unlikely to have any significant effects in terms of the EIA Regulations.
Question 1(f) Risk of major accidents and/or disasters relevant to the development concerned, including those caused by climate change, in accordance with scientific knowledge			

5		Detailed Screening Questions	
Questions to be considered		Yes/No/Unknown – provide description	For 'Yes/Unknown', are effects likely to be significant?
Will there be any risk of accidents during construction or operation of the Project which could affect human health or the environment?		Yes. Some risk of accident. Minimised through use of best practice.	Unlikely significant effect.
Question 1(g) Risks to Human Health (for example due to water contamination or air pollution)			
Will there be any risk to human health during the construction and/or operation of the development		There is potential for effects on noise, and air quality but these will not be great enough to lead to significant effects on human health, as supported by the comments of the Environmental Health Officer at the LPA.	N/A
CRITERION 2. LOCATION OF DEVELOPMENT			
Question 2(a) Existing and Approved Land Use			
Will the Project result in social changes, for example, in demography, traditional lifestyles, employment?		No.	N/A
Are there any routes or facilities on or around the location, which are used by the public for access to recreation or other facilities, which could be affected by the project?		As identified on Appendix 6 of the LPA's consultation response, there is a PRoW near to the western boundary of the site, and Offa's Dyke path is 380m to the east.	Due to the nature and scale of the proposed development, any effect on PRoWs is unlikely to be significant.
Are there any transport routes which are susceptible to congestion or which cause environmental problems, which could be affected by the project?		No.	N/A
Is the project located in a previously undeveloped area where there will be loss of greenfield land?		Yes. 0.45ha of undeveloped land will be developed. This site is adjacent to the existing Legacy Substation.	Due to the scale of the proposed development, and its location adjacent to an existing substation, any effect on loss of undeveloped land is unlikely to be significant.
Are there any areas on or around the location occupied by land uses which could be affected by the project, particularly sensitive land uses e.g. hospitals, schools, places of worship, community facilities?		No.	N/A

5	Detailed Screening Questions	
Questions to be considered	Yes/No/Unknown – provide description	For 'Yes/Unknown', are effects likely to be significant?
Question 2(b) Relative Abundance, Availability Quality and Regenerative Capacity of Natural Resources in the Area and its Underground		
Are there any areas on or around the location which contain important, high quality or scarce resources e.g. groundwater, surface waters, forestry, agriculture, fisheries, tourism, minerals, which could be affected by the project?	NRW highlight that the proposal is within 600m of a Source Protection Zone and is to be located on potentially made ground.	Due to the nature and scale of the proposed development, any effect on the SPZ is unlikely to be significant.
Question 2(c) Absorption Capacity of the Natural Environment		
Are there any other areas on or around the location which are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology, or are used by protected, important or sensitive species of fauna or flora, which could be affected by the project?	The site is designated as a wildlife site (reference W218). The site is located within 10km of the following European Sites: Johnstown Newt Sites SAC, Berwyn and South Clwyd Mountains SAC, River Dee and Bala Lake SAC, and Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar site.	NRW advise that the proposal is not likely to have direct significant effects on any European or nationally designated sites, but that there is potential for indirect effects from emissions. Due to the scale of development and its location, it is unlikely to have any significant effects in terms of the EIA Regulations.
Are there any inland, coastal, marine or underground waters on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	No.	N/A
Are there any areas or features of high landscape or scenic value on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	The site is located 800m from the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB, and within a locally designated Special Landscape Area.	NRW consider the construction and physical form of the development is unlikely to have a significant visual effect upon visual receptors within the AONB, but comment that there is some uncertainty with regard to operational effects. While there is the potential for effects that will need to be addressed during the examination of any future DNA application, due to the nature and scale of the proposed development, and screening from

5	Detailed Screening Questions	
Questions to be considered	Yes/No/Unknown – provide description	For 'Yes/Unknown', are effects likely to be significant?
		topography, buildings and vegetation, any effect on visual and landscape amenities is unlikely to be significant.
Is the project in a location where it is likely to be highly visible to many people?	No.	N/A
Are there any areas on or around the location which are densely populated or built-up, which could be affected by the project?	No.	N/A
Are there any areas or features of historic or cultural importance on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	Cadw were consulted, and identified a number of historic assets within 2km that are potentially affected by the proposal, including the Grade II* listed Esclusham Hall, and Scheduled Monuments including Offa's Dyke path (380m to the east), and at Cadwgan Hall.	Due to the nature and scale of the proposed development, and screening from topography, buildings and vegetation, any effect on the setting of historic assets is unlikely to be significant.
Are there any areas on or around the location which are already subject to pollution or environmental damage e.g. where existing legal environmental standards are exceeded, which could be affected by the project?	No.	N/A
Is the project location susceptible to subsidence, landslides, erosion, flooding or extreme or adverse climatic conditions, which could cause the project to present environmental problems?	No.	N/A
Has there already been a failure to meet environmental quality standards that is relevant to the project?	No.	N/A

Statement of reasons – insert into Screening Direction

The proposal for a gas peaking plant with associated infrastructure is sited adjacent to the Legacy Substation north of Rhosllanerchrugog, Wrexham. The main impacts are likely to be visual (including setting of heritage assets), on air quality and in

terms of noise. However, I am satisfied that none of these effects alone or in combination are likely to be significant enough to warrant EIA. I recommend that it be directed that this potential DNS application does not constitute EIA development.

6		Outcome of assessment	
(ii)	If a SO/SD has been provided do you agree with it?	N/A	
(iii)	Is EIA required?	No	
Outcome		Action	
Schedule 2 development – threshold exceeded/ criterion met or Sensitive Area but not likely to have significant effects on the environment		Issue direction stating EIA Not Required (Letter 1)	✓
Schedule 2 development – threshold exceeded/ criterion met or Sensitive Area and likely to have significant effects		Issue direction stating EIA Required (Letter 2)	
Project does not fall within the EIA Regulations as either: (a) it is listed within the descriptions of development Column 1 of Schedule 2 of the EIA Regulations but does not meet relevant threshold/criterion; or (b) it does not fall within the categories of development in Column 1 of Schedule 2 of the EIA Regulations.		EIA Not Required - Issue direction stating either: (A) project listed within descriptions of development in Column 1 of Schedule 2 of the EIA Regs but does not meet relevant threshold/criterion; or (B) project does not fall within the categories of development in Column 1 of Schedule 2 of the EIA Regs (Letter 3)	
Schedule 2 development but effects not clear at this stage – file to be reviewed at a later stage		No action – review when appropriate i.e. on receipt of new information/case progress	
Schedule 2 development – appeal is at an advanced stage – referred for Direction; likely to have significant effects		Issue direction stating EIA Required (Letter 4)	
Development relates to a Report case, i.e. where the Welsh Ministers will make the final decision.		Ensure Welsh Government are copied in to Screening Direction when it is issued.	
Name and Job Title of Assessor		Ifan Gwilym, Planning Officer	
Date of Assessment		19 May 2020	