

Thurrock Power - Flexible Generation Plant

Two Gas Fired Electricity Generating Stations and Battery Storage Facility – Land to the north of Tilbury substation, Thurrock.

Pre-Application Consultation

Statement of Community Consultation

The Planning Act 2008- Pursuant to Section 47

Applicant: Thurrock Power Limited

(Subsidiary of Statera Energy Limited)

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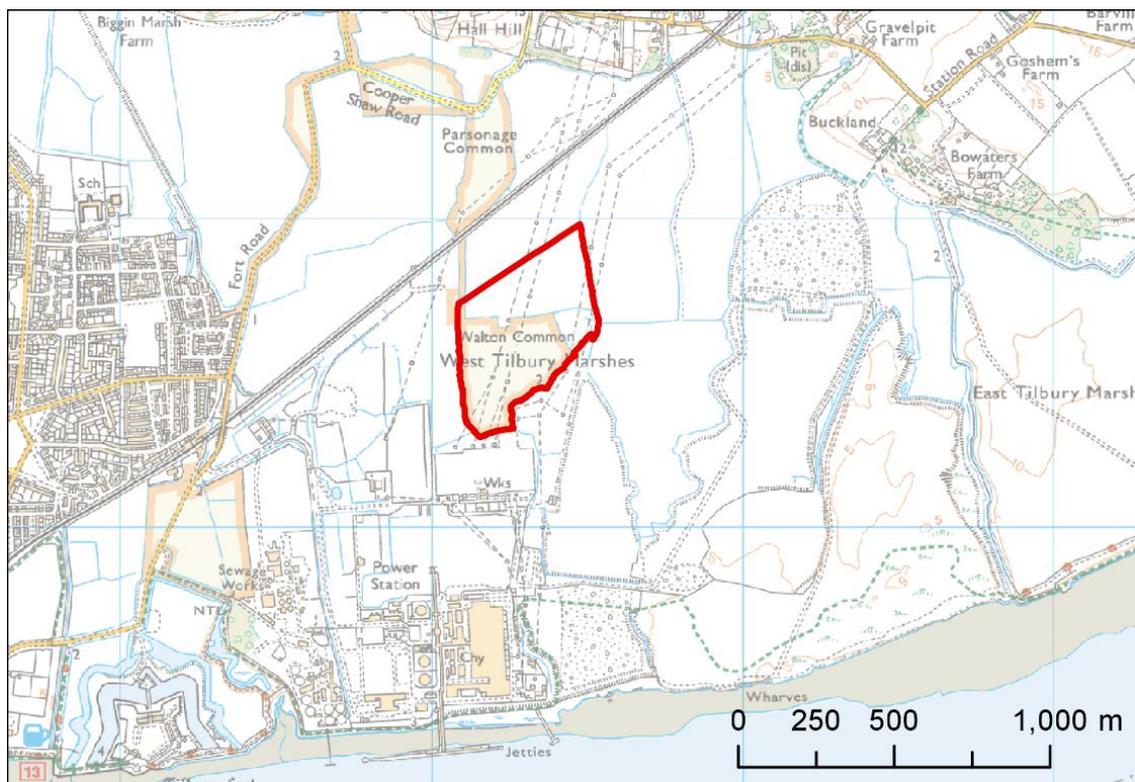
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1. Introduction

This Statement of Community Consultation ('SoCC') is published in connection with a proposal for two Gas Fired Electricity Generating Stations (GFEES) at 299.99MW each and a Battery Storage Facility (BSF) at 150MW to be known collectively as Thurrock Power Flexible Generation Plant ('the proposed development'). The proposed development would be located on land directly north of the existing National Grid Tilbury substation, approximately 900m to the south east of Tilbury, 1.2km south of West Tilbury, 2.2 km west of East Tilbury and 2.3 km to Chadwell St Mary (refer to **Figure 1**) in Thurrock. The proposed development is being promoted by Statera Energy (Thurrock Power) Limited ('Thurrock Power').

Figure 1: Location of the Proposed Development



The generating capacity of the proposed development would be in excess of 50 MW, therefore the proposed development is classified as a 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project' (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008 (The 2008 Act). This means a Development Consent Order (DCO) is required to build and operate the proposed developments, and consent will be sought from the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

This SoCC provides details of the purpose, scope and methods of pre-application consultation which will be undertaken by Thurrock Power pursuant to Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 ('the Act'). Under S47 of the Act, Thurrock Power must consult with 'people living in the vicinity of the land'. Thurrock Power will therefore conduct consultation with communities, groups and individuals that live, work or use the area surrounding the proposed development site, or may be impacted by it (referred to in this SoCC as 'the local community'). They will be informed about and consulted on Thurrock Power's proposals to construct, operate and decommission the proposed development prior to an application for development consent being made to the Secretary of State. In preparing this SoCC, Thurrock Power has consulted Thurrock Council and has regarded its response.

Section 5 of this SoCC details how this and other consultation documents can be accessed. These details are also contained in the notice publicising this Statement, which will be published in a local newspaper, on the proposed development website [www.thurrockpower.co.uk] and deposited at two or more local community venues (see **Appendix 1** for a copy).

2. Scope and Structure of the SoCC

This SoCC sets out:

- details of the proposed development (**Section 3**);
- details of the relevant planning process (**Section 4**);
- how Thurrock Power will engage, consult and help the local community to understand how particular aspects of the proposed development may impact them. Information will be included as to how Thurrock Power intends to disseminate information (**Section 5**);
- how Thurrock Power will publish the required preliminary environmental information ('PEI') relating to the proposed development as part of this consultation (**Section 6**); and
- how people can provide responses to the consultation and engage with Thurrock Power to help shape the proposed development (**Section 5**).

3. Thurrock Power Project

The proposed development would comprise the construction, operation (including maintenance) and eventually decommissioning of a GFEGS and BSF with a combined capacity of up to 750 MW. The proposed development is intended to meet short periods of peak demand through flexible generation and therefore would not run all year round. The combined facility may also provide ancillary services to National Grid and UK Power Networks ('UKPN') from time to time.

4. The Planning Process

The proposed development will be classified under the Act as an NSIP. Thurrock Power will therefore be required to apply to the Secretary of State for BEIS for a DCO to construct, operate and decommission the proposed development. The Planning Inspectorate ('PINS'), acting on behalf of the Secretary of State, will process and examine the application before making a recommendation as to whether or not the DCO should be granted. The Secretary of State will make the final decision.

The Government's policies in relation to NSIPs are set out in the National Policy Statements (NPSs). The Project is being developed having regard to the relevant NPSs, in particular EN-1 (Energy) and EN-2 (Fossil Fuel Electricity Generating Infrastructure). National policy in EN-1 (Energy) recognises that *'gas will continue to play an important role in the electricity sector'*. As the need for this type of development has been established by national policy, the principle of developing flexible generation is not a matter for stakeholders.

In accepting the application, PINS must be satisfied that adequate pre-application consultation has been conducted. Pre-application consultation is essential in enabling Thurrock Power to understand the views of the public and other stakeholders and regards will be had to key issues raised during the consultation process and will respond, where possible, to address feedback. Thurrock Power's application for DCO will include a Consultation Report ('CR') setting out the feedback received, how regard has been given to the feedback, and whether any of the feedback received has led to changes to the proposed development. The CR will also confirm how the consultation has been carried out in accordance with this SoCC and the requirements of the Act.

5. Approach to Consultation

Thurrock Power undertook informal consultation throughout 2017 and to date during 2018, with the following parties; Thurrock Council, Open Spaces Society, Essex Wildlife Trust, Natural England, Highways England, Essex County Council SuDS, Environment Agency, Port of Tilbury, RWE, Anglian Water, Network Rail, Department for BEIS, National Grid and PINS.

Thereafter, Thurrock Power drafted this SoCC, which was provided to Thurrock Council for comment. Thurrock Council was given 28 days to respond, regard was had to Thurrock Council's responses, and the draft SoCC was amended accordingly. The draft public notice at appendix 1 has been updated since consultation with Thurrock Council.

This SoCC will be publicised in three local regional newspaper in advance of the formal consultation period. It will also be posted on the website for the proposed development and made available at two or more locations as discussed separately with Thurrock Council.

As part of its formal consultation, Thurrock Power is consulting all of those *'living in the vicinity of the land'*, as required by the Act, which includes: (i) all those living within an approximate 3 km core Consultation Zone ('CZ'); and (ii) all those living along the main access road for the proposed development site, which will be used during the construction, operational and decommissioning periods.

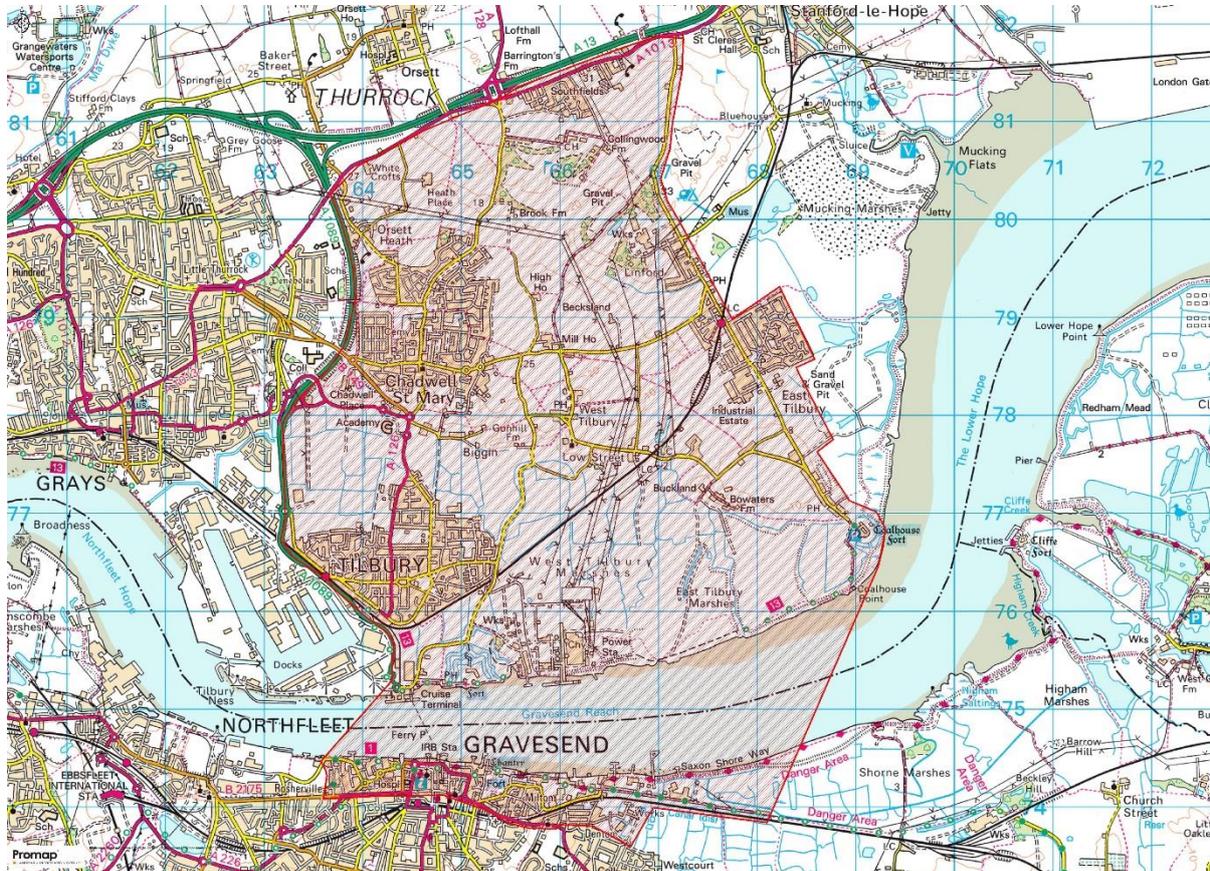
The CZ was identified after discussion with Thurrock Council, taking the following into consideration:

- (i) Incorporation of major viewpoints from the locality of the proposed development, taking into account those areas where it is possible to see the various components of the proposed development;
- (ii) Local transport routes, including those which will be used for construction vehicles and vehicles carrying abnormal loads;
- (iii) Parish council boundaries;
- (iv) Areas which may potentially be impacted by noise and changes to air quality during construction.

Consultees in the wider area will be made aware of the proposed development by way of a notice, in accordance with S48 of the Act, which will be published in two local newspapers for two consecutive weeks and in one national newspaper for one week.

Figure 2, below, pale pink single hatching shows the extent of the CZ.

Figure 2: Extent of Consultation Zone



During the formal (statutory) consultation, which will be held over a 30-day period, from 16th October to 14th November 2018. Thurrock Power will make available the following consultation documents:

- The SoCC
- Consultation Letter
- Have Your Say Document. This will provide details of the proposed development in non-technical language and include the boundary of the proposed development
- Exhibition board content used at the public exhibitions
- Feedback forms
- Preliminary Environmental Information ('PEI'). This will provide sufficient environmental information to enable consultees to develop an informed view of the proposed development. It will include a Non-Technical Summary.

A Consultation Letter will be sent to communities, groups and individuals that live, work or use the area surrounding the proposed development site, or may be impacted by it. The Consultation Letter, together with the other documents listed will be available for inspection on the website for the proposed development (www.thurrockpower.co.uk) and at four or more the local community venues, including one venue in Gravesend.

Thurrock Power will also hold four public consultations in communities within the CZ, which will be publicised in advance on the website for the proposed development. The Consultation Letter will include dates and times for the public consultations and posters advertising the public consultation will also be placed at four or more locations within the CZ throughout the formal consultation period. All the consultation documents will be available for inspection at these exhibitions, plus a feedback form, which will contain various questions and be used to capture any feedback. Members of Thurrock Power's team will be on hand at the exhibitions to answer any questions.

Thurrock Power's team will also be available to attend parish council meetings or other local community events, at reasonable request, during the consultation period.

Thurrock Power will ensure that any hard to reach groups within the CZ, which have been identified by Thurrock Council, are contacted before the consultation begins and made aware of the consultation.

Details will be given in the consultation documents and in the S48 notice of the deadline for responses, which is 11.59pm on 14th November 2018.

The website for the proposed development will be maintained after the close of the consultation, to ensure all the relevant consultation materials are easily available, although late responses cannot be guaranteed to be considered. Requests for information about the proposed development in other formats (for example large print or braille) will be considered upon request.

6. Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI)

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be undertaken for the proposed development to identify any likely significant effects on the environment. Following the completion of the EIA scoping exercise, Thurrock Power is undertaking its EIA and will report the findings in an Environmental Statement that will be submitted as part of the application for development consent. The environmental topics to be covered include: air quality; traffic and transport; noise and vibration; ecology; landscape and visual amenity; ground conditions and hydrogeology; flood risk, hydrogeology and water resources; cultural heritage; socio-economics; sustainability and climate change. Once the application has been submitted all relevant documents will be made available on the Thurrock Power project page of The Planning Inspectorate's website at the appropriate time. The Environmental Statement, and Consultation Report, will be submitted as part of the application for the DCO.

As stated above, in Section 5, the consultation materials will include PEI. The PEI Report will include details of the baseline environment, the preliminary assessments of the likely significant environmental effects (positive and negative) of the construction, operation and decommissioning periods of the proposed development and a preliminary view of potential mitigation measures, where required.

7. Next Steps

Once the consultation process has been completed, a detailed Consultation Report, explaining the consultation that has taken place, and how responses to the consultation have influenced the final proposals, will accompany the application to the Secretary of State for Development Consent.

Thurrock Power will notify those in the CZ once the application for the DCO has been accepted by the Secretary of State, via the Consultation Letter and a notice in a national newspaper for one week and in two local newspapers for two consecutive weeks (as a separate exercise, Thurrock Power is obliged to notify those with an interest in land within the development boundary and

prescribed consultees of acceptance of the application).

8. Contact Details

Details of how the local community can contact Thurrock Power are as follows:

- Free Post address: **THURROCK POWER**
- Call us on 02071860580
- Email us at: contact@thurrockpower.co.uk
- www.thurrockpower.co.uk

The formal consultation period will run from 16th October to 14th November 2018. If you wish to provide your views on the proposed development, you can do so in the following ways:

- Complete a consultation feedback form online at: www.thurrockpower.co.uk
- Attend a public consultation event and complete a feedback form
- Complete a feedback form and send it to us at: Freepost THURROCK POWER

For more information about the process for proposed major infrastructure projects visit the Planning Inspectorate's website: <http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk> or call: 0303 4445000

A video explaining the DCO process is also available online at:
<http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/the-process/>

9. Related Consultations

During its consultation period, Thurrock Power will monitor all other major consultation exercises being undertaken in the local area at the same time. Effort will be made to coordinate the pre-application consultation with other projects, where possible, to avoid confusion and/or consultation fatigue.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Thurrock Power Limited - a Statera Energy Group Company

PROPOSED CONSULTATION AND STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION NOTICE



Thurrock Power Limited (Thurrock Power), a Statera Energy Group Company, proposes to develop a flexible generation plant on land north of Tilbury Substation in Thurrock (the Project). The flexible generation plant will provide up to 600 megawatts of electrical generation capacity on a fast response basis when called for by the National Grid, together with up to 150 megawatts of battery storage capacity.

This notice explains more about the Project and provides information about where a more detailed explanation of the proposed consultation with the local community can be accessed.

The flexible generation plant comprises reciprocating gas engines, batteries, and associated electrical and control equipment. A new access road and a gas pipeline connection to the gas national transmission system will be developed. The electrical export connection will be via underground cables to the immediately adjacent National Grid Tilbury Substation. Subject to public consultation, planning and finance, the flexible generation plant could enter commercial operation towards the end of 2021.

The proposed development will be designed to operate for at least 35 years, after which ongoing operation and market conditions will be reviewed. If it is not appropriate to continue operating after that time, one or both facilities (gas engines or batteries) will be decommissioned.

The proposed development is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project under the Planning Act 2008, which means that a Development Consent Order (DCO) is required to build, operate and maintain it.

Due to the nature and size of the Project, Thurrock Power is undertaking an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and the Project is therefore classified as an EIA development. The EIA will consider the potential impacts, both positive and negative, of the Project including air quality, noise, visual and cumulative impact, traffic, local ecology, archaeology and heritage and socio-economics.

The DCO application will be processed and examined by the Planning Inspectorate who will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. The final decision on whether to grant the application will be made by the Secretary of State.

Formal consultation with local people, businesses and other organisations is an essential part of the DCO application process and will help influence the final design of the Project. Only after all consultation responses have been considered will the Project design be finalised and the application for DCO be submitted.

The Government’s policies in relation to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects are set out in National Policy Statements (NPSs). NPS EN-1 (Energy) states that: “gas will continue to play an important role in the electricity sector – providing vital flexibility to support an increasing amount of low-carbon generation and to maintain security of supply.” As the need for this type of development has been established by national policy, the principle of developing flexible generation is not a matter for consultation.

Thurrock Power has prepared a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), which sets out how it proposes to consult people living and working in the vicinity of the site about the proposed DCO application. This document is available for inspection on the Project website (www.thurrockpower.co.uk) and at the following public venues from the date of publication of this notice until the end of the formal consultation period (opening times may vary):

Location	Address
Thurrock Council	Civic Offices, New Road, Grays, RM17 6SL
Tilbury Hub	16 Civic Square, Tilbury, RM18 8ZZ
Gravesend Library	Windmill Street, Gravesend, DA12 1BE
Chadwell St Mary Library	Brentwood Road, Chadwell St Mary, Grays, RM16 4JP

Households and businesses within a consultation zone specified in the SoCC will receive a letter informing them about the public consultation process, how to obtain further information, and how to provide feedback to Thurrock Power. These letters will be delivered on or around 2nd October 2018.

Public Consultation Exhibitions about the project will be held at the following locations and times:

Location	Venue	Date	Time
Gravesend	The Court Room, Gravesend Old Town Hall, High Street, Gravesend, DA11 0AZ	Tuesday 16th October 2018	11am to 8pm
West Tilbury	West Tilbury Village Hall, Rectory Road, West Tilbury, RM18 8UD	Tuesday 23rd October 2018	11am to 8pm
Tilbury Hub	Tilbury Hub, 16 Civic Square, Tilbury, RM18 8ZZ	Friday 2nd November 2018	11am to 8pm
Linford	Linford Village Hall, Lower Crescent, Linford, SS17 0QP	Wednesday 7th November 2018	11am to 5.30pm

From 16th October 2018, information about the proposed Project, including a ‘have your say’ document, a feedback form and a Preliminary Environmental Information Report containing a non-technical summary, will be made available for inspection on the Project website and at the following locations (opening times may vary):

Location	Address
Thurrock Council	Civic Offices, New Road, Grays, RM17 6SL
Tilbury Hub	16 Civic Square, Tilbury, RM18 8ZZ
Gravesend Library	Windmill Street, Gravesend, DA12 1BE
Chadwell St Mary Library	Brentwood Road, Chadwell St Mary, Grays, RM16 4JP

The formal consultation period will end at 11.59pm on 14th November 2018, and all feedback must be received by Thurrock Power by this time. Feedback may be made public, subject to current relevant data protection legislation.

Website: www.thurrockpower.co.uk Email: contact@thurrockpower.co.uk; Telephone: 0207 1860580; Freepost: Freepost THURROCK POWER.