



CASE REF: APP/DESNZ/PITSMOORWTCPO

The National Grid Transmission PLC (Pitsmoor-Wincobank-Templeborough 275 kV Cable Replacement Scheme) Compulsory Purchase Order 2023

Pre Inquiry Meeting to be held at 11.00 hours on Tuesday 21 May 2024

INSPECTOR'S PRE MEETING NOTE

1. My name is Darren Hendley, I am a chartered town planner and will lead the Pre Inquiry Meeting (PIM). Instructions for joining the meeting and the meeting etiquette have been forwarded separately.
2. There will be no discussion of the merits of the respective cases and I will not hear any evidence. The purpose of the PIM is to give a clear indication as to the ongoing management of this case and the presentation of evidence, so that the forthcoming event is conducted in an efficient and effective manner.
3. The Inquiry itself is scheduled to open at 10.00am on Tuesday 9 July 2024. This will be discussed at the PIM in light of comments made by MHH Contracting Limited.

Matters to be considered at the Inquiry

4. On the basis of the material currently submitted, I consider that the matters to be considered are likely to be:
 - a) Factors that are set out in paragraph 106 of DLUHC's Guidance on Compulsory purchase process and The Crichel Down Rules (2019) (DLUHC Guidance). These include (in summary) the planning framework, the contribution to the well-being of the area, whether the purpose could be achieved by other means and financial viability;
 - b) Factors that are set out in Schedule 9, paragraph 1. (1) of the Electricity Act 1989; and
 - c) Any other factors that have been raised by the objectors.
5. I will expect the Acquiring Authority (AA) to provide an update on the position with objectors at the PIM in terms of whether they are still outstanding.
6. It is essential that all parties communicate effectively with one another to seek to narrow the issues for consideration at the Inquiry. This should be an on-going conversation. I will refine the above as necessary but you are requested to give consideration in advance of the PIM as to whether the identified matters encapsulate those most pertinent as to whether the order should be confirmed.

Dealing with the Evidence

7. I anticipate that the Inquiry will follow the Compulsory Purchase (Inquiries Procedure) Rules 2007 (SI 2007 No 3617) as amended and the advice contain in the DLUHC Guidance. This is in accordance with the procedural email issued by DESNZ on 7 March 2024.
8. I will want to hear the parties' views on the best method of dealing with the matters to be considered at the Inquiry, but my initial views are that the AA should put forward its case, including common/general matters, first. Then on each objection, the AA will give its evidence, followed by the objector. This will be detailed further at the PIM.
9. The AA's evidence to the Inquiry will also need to cover any other matters raised in line with paragraph 4 of this note.
10. You are requested to give the above careful consideration in advance of the related discussion at the PIM. Any request for evidence to be heard other than as currently envisaged will need to be fully justified.
11. All the above points are included on the PIM agenda.
12. The attached Annex sets out the preferred format and content of Statements of Evidence and appendices, which should be observed.

Darren Hendley

INSPECTOR

10 May 2024

Annex A

Content and Format of Statements of Evidence and Appendices

Content

Statements of Evidence **should**:

- focus on the factors set out in paragraph 106 of DLUHC's Guidance, Schedule 9, paragraph 1. (1) of the Electricity Act 1989 and the objections;
- be proportionate to the number and complexity of issues and matters that the witness is addressing;
- be concise, precise, relevant and contain facts and expert opinion deriving from witnesses' own professional expertise and experience, and/or local knowledge;
- be prepared with a clear structure that identifies and addresses the main issues within the witness's field of knowledge and avoids repetition;
- focus on what is really necessary to make the case and avoid including unnecessary material, or duplicating material in other documents or another witness's evidence; and
- where data is referred to, include that data, and outline any relevant assessment methodology and the assumptions used to support the arguments.

Statements of Evidence **should not**:

- duplicate information already included in other Inquiry material; and
- recite the text of policies referred to elsewhere. The Statements need only identify the relevant policy numbers, with extracts being provided as core documents. Only policies which are needed to understand the argument being put forward and are fundamental to an appraisal of the compulsory purchase order need to be referred to.

Format of the Statements of Evidence and appendices:

- Statements of Evidence to be no longer than 3000 words if possible. Where they are longer than 1500 words, summaries are to be submitted;
- Statements of Evidence are to be spiral bound or bound in such a way as to be easily opened and read;
- Front covers to Statements of Evidence and appendices are to be clearly titled, with the name of the witness on the cover;
- Pages and paragraphs should be numbered;

- Appendices are to be bound separately; and
- Appendices are to be indexed using **projecting tabs**, labelled and **paginated**.