

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 held at 11.00 hours on Tuesday 21 May 2024

INSPECTOR'S POST MEETING NOTE

1. The Pre Inquiry Meeting (PIM) was led by the Inquiry Inspector, Darren Hendley.
2. The purpose of the PIM was to provide a clear indication as to the ongoing management of the case and the presentation of evidence so that the forthcoming Inquiry is conducted in an efficient and effective manner. There was no discussion of the merits of the case. The Acquiring Authority (AA) is encouraged to post a copy of this note on its webpage so that Interested Parties are aware of it.

Matters to be considered at the Inquiry

3. It was agreed that the matters to be considered at the Inquiry are:
 - Factors that are set out in paragraph 106 of the Department of Levelling Up Housing & Communities' Guidance on Compulsory purchase process and the Crichel Down Rules (2019). In summary, these include the planning framework, the contribution to the well-being of the area, whether the purpose could be achieved by other means and financial viability;
 - Factors that are set out in Schedule 9 (1) of the Electricity Act 1989; and
 - Any other factors that have been raised by the objectors.
4. The Inquiry will follow The Compulsory Purchase (Inquiries Procedure) Rules 2007.
5. The advocate for the AA was confirmed as Rebecca Clutten of Counsel, who intended to call three witnesses. These would be Damien Spurr, Senior Project Manager NGET (scheme need and funding); Dave Rogerson, Lead Transmission Engineer NGET (engineering/route alignment and deliverability); and Neal Salomon, Partner, RICS Registered Valuer, Bell Ingram LLP (Land Assembly and Consents).
6. Planning matters would be dealt with by way of a note annexed to Mr Salomon's evidence prepared by Michelle Robinson of Stantec, who would be available on one day of the Inquiry (in person or virtually).
7. The AA envisaged that objections, apart from potentially the objection of Jeffrey Windle, would be resolved by the opening of the Inquiry. In the event this is not the case the objectors reserve the right to address the Inquiry, be represented and call witnesses as appropriate. The AA's

evidence will deal with objections as at the time of the submission of the Statements of Evidence. An update on how objections have been resolved will also be provided if that is the case.

Event details/site visit

8. The Inquiry will open on Tuesday 9 July 2024 at 10.00am and will also sit on Wednesday 10 and Friday 12 July (start time 10.00am). This will include dealing with all remaining objectors, apart from MHH Contracting.
9. In light of the availability of MHH Contracting and in the event that its objection is outstanding, it is also intended that the Inquiry would sit on Tuesday 30 July (start time 10.00am) as a reserve date. The AA is to confirm venue availability asap. *Note: Subsequent to the PIM this has been provided – same venue - Crowne Plaza hotel in Sheffield.*
10. The site visit will take place on Thursday 11 July 2024 and will take place on an unaccompanied basis with the Inspector following the route from public vantage points. While the Inspector would not enter private land other than potentially on Public Rights of Way, objectors should make relevant persons aware of his presence in the area on that date in order to prevent potential confusion.

Inquiry running order/programme

11. The order of presentation of cases will follow 'Method B'.
12. This involves the AA starting with an opening statement and then setting out common/general matters via its witness(es).
13. Then in turning to a remaining objector, AA witness(es) would be called, consisting of evidence-in-chief, cross-examination by the objector, my questions and re-examination. This would be repeated for the objector, consisting of evidence-in-chief, cross-examination by the AA's advocate, my questions and then re-examination (if the objector has an advocate). This process would be reapplied to each remaining objector.
14. Then, there would be an opportunity for the AA to respond to objections, where no appearance is made. I would then hear the AA's final submissions before the Inquiry closes.
15. In the event that MHH Contracting's objection is outstanding, the Inquiry would be adjourned after the AA has responded to objections, where no appearance is made. MHH Contracting's objection and the AA's final submissions would then be heard when the Inquiry resumes.

Core Documents and Hard Copies

16. Parties will need to agree a list of core documents so they can be properly referenced, including in the Statements of Evidence. That list is to be coordinated by the AA. The template for the list of core documents can follow that as set out in the AA's Statement of Case, allowing for objectors

to add to this list. The AA is to make the core documents available on its webpage.

17.The core documents should comprise only those documents to which the parties will be referring. So, if they are not going to be referred to, they do not need to be on the list. The AA's drone footage needs to be in low as well as high resolution versions, in a mp4 format. If it is intended to be used at the Inquiry, the AA may need to give thought as to how it would be viewable in the Inquiry room. The Options Appraisal that is referred to in the AA's Statement of Case should also be a core document.

18.I will require hard copy versions of the Statements of Evidence, Summaries and Appendices. I also require A3 sized copies of Order Plans and the Proposed and Existing Routes Overview Plan. These are to be submitted to Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Bristol BS1 6PN, marked for the attention of Stephen Waterfield. I am content for the rest of the Core Documents to be submitted only electronically. Electronic versions of all documents are to be submitted to stephen.waterfield@planninginspectorate.gov.uk and clearly referenced.

19.Details of the content and format of Statements of Evidence and Appendices were appended to the Inspector's Pre Meeting Note.

20.The AA is to provide paper copies of all core documents at the Inquiry venue. The AA's opening statement and final submissions are to be provided in writing and emailed to the Case Officer at the above email address.

Timetable for Submission of Documents

21.The timetable is as follows:

Date for Submission to PINS (no later than)	Document
18 June 2024	- Statements of Evidence - Core Documents and List
25 June 2024	- Convening Notice in a newspaper and displayed near to the site
2 July 2024	- Final timings for openings and closings, evidence in chief and cross examination
9 July 2024	Inquiry scheduled to open at 10am
30 July 2024	Inquiry reserve day, if required

Any Other Procedural Matters

22.The AA informed that objections had not been received to its Special Category Land Section 19 application to the Department of Levelling Up Housing & Communities.

23.Network Rail is to forward to the Case Officer its Section 16 representation.
Note: Subsequently provided by Network Rail

24.The AA is to check there are not minor correctional or typographical modifications needed to the Order. If there are, they need to be drawn to my attention well before the Inquiry via the Case Officer.

25.The PIM closed at 11.50 am.

Darren Hendley

24 May 2024