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INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document comprises an Environmental Statement (ES) which has been prepared by SLR Consulting Ltd (SLR) on behalf of Clean Power Properties Limited and Network Rail Infrastructure Limited (the applicant). The ES is part of a package of documents being submitted to Hampshire County Council in support of a planning application for an energy recovery centre comprising Advanced Conversion Technologies (ACT) and Anaerobic Digestion (AD) technologies at the Micheldever Rail Sidings, to the north of the railway station at Micheldever Station and to the south of the A303 near Micheldever in Hampshire.

1.2 The site is located at National Grid Reference SU 51981 43525. The site location is shown in Drawing MD 2/1 Site Location Plan.

1.3 The ES aims to provide an objective account of the possible significant environmental effects of the proposed development by setting out the results of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) that has been undertaken.

1.4 The ES has been prepared in line with the framework provided by The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011 (the EIA Regulations) and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment's '*Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment'*.

1.5 The EIA Regulations specify the types of development for which an EIA is mandatory (Schedule 1 Projects) and categories of development where an EIA may be required (Schedule 2 Projects). In connection with the proposal at Micheldever Railway Sidings, it is considered to be a **Schedule 2, Regulation 2 (1) development**. It has been identified as an installation for the disposal of waste which falls within category 11 - other projects. The site area exceeds 0.5 hectares which confirms that a screening opinion on the need for EIA is required.

1.6 At the pre-application meeting with Hampshire County Council, the Local Authority agreed that an EIA would be required.

Application Submission Package

1.7 This ES comprises Volume 2 of a larger multi volume submission to accompany the planning application. In addition to the formal planning application forms and certificates, the full submission comprises:

- Volume 1: Planning and Sustainability Statement
- **Volume 2A: Environmental Statement**
- **Volume 2B:Technical Appendices to the ES**;
- Volume 3: Design and Access Statement
- Volume 4: A Non Technical Summary of the ES.

1.8 The Planning Statement supports the planning application and considers the proposal in the context of relevant planning policies and strategies, and other material considerations, including need and sustainability. It also provides details of the community involvement undertaken.

1.9 The Design and Access Statement is a statutorily required document to accompany a planning application and has been prepared to describe the architectural vision for the development of the facility.

1.10 The Non Technical Summary (NTS) has been produced as a separate document to accompany the planning submission, being a mandatory part of the ES. This provides, in non-technical language, a brief summary of the likely significant effects that the proposed development would have on the environment.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

1.11 EIA is an important procedure for ensuring that the likely effects of a new development on the environment are fully understood and taken into account before the development is allowed to proceed. The term EIA describes a procedure that must be followed for certain types of development before they are given "*development consent*", which in the UK includes the grant of a planning permission. The procedure is a means of drawing together, in a systematic way, an assessment of a project's likely significant environmental effects.

Statutory Background

European Context

1.12 The Environmental Impact Assessment Directive[1] (the "*EIA Directive*") requires that, before granting '*development consent*' for projects, including development proposals, authorities should carry out a procedure known as environmental impact assessment (or "*EIA*") of any project which is likely to have significant effects on the environment. The aim of the EIA Directive is to ensure that the authority giving consent for a project makes its decision in the knowledge of any likely significant effects on the environment. The first EIA Directive (85/337/EEC) came into force in 1988. An amending Directive (97/11/EC) came into force on 14 March 1999. This extended the range of development to which the Directive applies and made some small changes to EIA procedures. The Directive was further amended by Article 3 of Directive 2003/35/EC which strengthened the requirements within the EIA procedures for public consultation and participation.

[1] Council Directive 85/337/EEC on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, as amended by Council Directive 97/11/EC and Article 3 of Council Directive 2003/35/EC. Consolidated version at: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CONSLEG:1985L0337:20030625:EN:PDF

National Context

1.13 The EIA Directive has been implemented by regulations for development proposals under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (the 1990 Act). Since 14 March 1999, EIA has been applied to relevant proposals for new development, including relevant proposals for new waste management facilities, by the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999. During the intervening period, the 1999 EIA Regulations were amended by a number of Statutory Instruments. In August 2011, the 1999 regulations were replaced by the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011[2] (the EIA Regulations previously referred to above).

The Environmental Statement

1.14 An ES is a report of an EIA that is required to be submitted with a planning application for major and other developments that are likely to have significant impacts on the environment. It evaluates the likely environmental impacts of the development, together with an assessment of how the severity of the impacts could be reduced.

1.15 The EIA Regulations define an ES as a statement:

> "*that includes such of the information referred to in Part I of Schedule 4 as is reasonably required to assess the environmental effects of the development and which the applicant can, having regard in particular to current knowledge and methods of assessment, reasonably be required to compile, but that includes at least the information referred to in Part II of Schedule 4*".

Content

1.16 There is no prescribed form for an ES, provided the requirements of the EIA Regulations are met.

1.17 Regulation 2(1) and the associated Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations sets out the requirements regarding the content of an ES. For ease of reference, the box below sets out the requirements. Referring to paragraph 1.15 above, an ES <u>must</u> contain the information in Part II.

> *PART I*
>
> *1. Description of the development, including in particular –*
>
> *(a) a description of the physical characteristics of the whole development and the land-use requirements during the construction and operational phases;*
>
> *(b) a description of the main characteristics of the production*

[2] SI 2011 No. 1824

processes, for instance, nature and quantity of materials used;

(c) an estimate, by type and quantity, of expected residues and emissions (water, air and soil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat radiation, etc.) resulting from the operation of the proposed development.

2. An outline of the main alternatives studied by the applicant or appellant and an indication of the main reasons for his choice, taking into account the environmental effects.

3. A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the proposed development, including, in particular, population, fauna, flora, soil water, air, climatic factors, material assets, including the architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the inter-relationship between the above factors.

4. A description of the likely significant affects of the development on the environment, which should cover the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium and long-tem, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects of the development, resulting from:

(a) the existence of the development;

(b) the use of natural resources;

(c) the emission of pollutants, the creation of nuisances and the elimination of waste, and the description of the measures by the applicant of the forecasting methods used to assess the effects on the environment.

5. A description of the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and where possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment.

6. A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 5 of this Part.

7. An indication of any difficulties (technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered by the applicant in compiling the required information.

PART II

1. A description of the development comprising information on the site, design and size of the development.

2. A description of the measures envisaged in order to avoid, reduce and, if possible, remedy significant adverse effects.

3. The data required to identify and assess the main effects which the development is likely to have on the environment.

4. An outline of the main alternatives studied by the applicant or appellant

and an indication of the main reasons for his choice, taking into account the environmental effects.

5. A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 4 of this Part.

1.18 Appendices 1 to 10 of the former Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions "*Good Practice Guide for the Preparation of Environmental Statements for Planning Projects*"[3] structure the legal requirements of the Regulations as follows:

- human beings (population changes, changes in the consumption of housing or services);
- noise and vibration;
- traffic and transport;
- land use;
- flora and fauna (ecology);
- soil, geology and hydrogeology;
- water (hydrology);
- air and climate;
- landscape; and
- cultural heritage/material assets

.

1.19 Although this guidance relates to the superseded 1988 EIA Regulations, it is still considered to be a valid source of basic good practice advice within the context of the UK Town and Country Planning system. More recent guidance is provided in the Government Circular 02/99 "*Environmental Impact Assessment*", which accompanies the EIA Regulations.

Scoping Exercise

1.20 Having established that an Environmental Statement was required the EIA Regulations stipulate that the Applicant may make a request for a formal Scoping Opinion (Part IV Regulation 13). The Scoping exercise allows the applicant to clearly identify the main environmental issues, as this allows for more detailed and targeted assessments to be carried out.

1.21 A formal request for a Scoping Opinion under Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations was submitted to Hampshire County Council (HCC) on the 5th March 2012. This report enabled HCC to gain an initial understanding of the project and to undertake a scoping exercise with internal consultees and third-parties.

1.22 A copy of the Scoping Opinion Request/Report dated February 2012 is included in full at Technical Appendix 1/1 in Volume 2B. HCCs adopted Scoping Opinion is included at Technical Appendix 1/2 in Volume 2B.

[3] Preparation of Environmental Statements for Planning Projects that Require Environmental Assessment: A Good Practice Guide. DETR 1998

1.23 The purpose of the scoping exercise was:

- to focus the EIA on the environmental issues and potential impacts which need the most thorough attention;
- to identify those which are unlikely to need detailed study; and
- to provide a means to discuss methods of impact assessment and reach agreement on the most appropriate.

1.24 The adopted Scoping Opinion has fed into this exercise to ensure that the Environmental Statement accurately and comprehensively reflects the proposal.

Approach to Assessment

1.25 The EIA has identified a range of potential environmental issues, many of which vary both in terms of when they occur within the life cycle of the development, and the length of time they are significant. The proposed facility has a design life in excess of 25 years, and thus the life cycle of the development can be divided into two phases; namely the "*Construction Phase*" and "*Operational Phase*".

Construction	Typically being within the first three years of the development and would comprise initial site preparation works, construction activities and landscaping works.
Operational	This would cover the operation of the facility over a period of twenty five years.

1.26 Identified impacts can have differing durations, and the EIA has classified impacts into three timeframes; Short Term, Medium Term and Long Term

- Short Term – from a few months to five years;
- Medium Term – five to fifteen years;
- Long Term – in excess of fifteen years.

1.27 In addition, effects can be temporary or permanent, direct or indirect, or positive or negative. As required by the EIA Regulations, the assessment of impacts has been carried out according to its type (positive or negative) and duration (temporary or permanent). Residual and cumulative impacts have also been considered. These are described in the relevant ES chapters and summarised in the Cumulative Impact chapter.

1.28 For each environmental aspect, the detailed assessment methodology is discussed in the relevant ES Chapter. The criteria used for assessing the degree of significance are based on the relevant technical guidance from the appropriate professional institute and/or industry good practice. Where well-documented significance criteria are not available, generic significance criteria **(Table 1/1)** have been used based on the requirements of the EIA

Regulations. They have been developed following research and based on SLR's expertise and experience in carrying out EIA's.

Table 1/1 Generic Significance Criteria

Significance	Criteria
Severe – for adverse effects only **Major*** - for beneficial effects only	**Severe** or **major*** effects represent key factors in the decision-making process. They will principally occur where very important resources are subject to extreme effects. Such effects are generally, but not exclusively, associated with any recognised or designated sites/features of international or national importance. Mitigation measures are unlikely to remove or modify the adverse effects. **Major*** beneficial effects may occur if there is a substantial increase in the value of the environmental resource qualitatively or quantitatively on an international or national level.
Major	Major effects are important considerations on a regional or county level, principally affecting very important resources or creating extreme effects on important resources. Mitigation measures and detailed design work are unlikely to remove all the adverse effects by virtue of the magnitude of the predicted effects. Major beneficial effects may occur if there is a substantial increase in the value of the environmental resource qualitatively or quantitatively on a regional or county level.
Moderate	Moderate effects are important considerations at a district level, but are unlikely to be key decision making issues. They will principally occur where important resources are moderately or slightly affected, or where lesser resources are affected in the extreme. Mitigation measures and detailed design work may ameliorate some of the consequences on the affected communities or interests; however, some residual effects will still arise. Moderate beneficial effects may occur if there is a considerable increase in the

Significance	Criteria
	value of the resource on a district level.
Minor	Minor effects are experienced at the local level and do not represent important issues in the decision making process. Assignment of this level of significance will principally occur if less important environmental resources experience more limited effects. Appropriate mitigation measures may reduce, remove or even reverse such effects. Minor beneficial effects may occur if there is only a limited increase in the value of the resource at a local level.
Negligible	Effects are assigned to this level if they are nil, imperceptible, negligible, within normal bounds of variation, or within margins of forecasting error when compared to the existing situation.

1.29 In order to determine the degree of any effect, a series of baseline surveys have also been undertaken for the purpose of the EIA. These are referred to in greater detail within the relevant ES chapters.

ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITTING

1.30 The proposed development would be regulated by the Environment Agency as Part A(1) installation under the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2011. Under the requirements of the Permit, all emissions and operational aspects of the installation would be regulated in accordance with strict conditions. The Permit would only be issued by the Environment Agency once it is satisfied that the installation can be operated within appropriate limits and by ensuring that appropriate safeguards, controls and operator competency are in place.

1.31 The entire plant would be operated and controlled from a central control room and would include continuous emissions monitors (CEMS) located on the main exhaust stack of the pyrolysis plant, which would operate on a 24 hour basis. This would provide on line monitoring of gas concentrations to ensure that the plant operates within its Environmental Permit.

1.32 All aspects of the plant would be continually monitored and fully interlocked to ensure that the plant can be safely shut down in a controlled manner in the event of a plant or equipment failure. The site includes the installation of a flare stack located in Zone 3, to be used in emergencies only.

1.33 The entire plant would be designed to comply with all aspects of UK Environmental Best Practice and would be able to demonstrate Best

Available Techniques (BAT) as identified by the sector Technical Guidance Notes (TGN) issued by the Environment Agency.

STRUCTURE OF THE SUBMISSION

1.34 This chapter of this ES provides an overview of the submission and the regulatory framework regarding EIA. Subsequent chapters of the ES provide a description of the application site; set out its planning history; describe the development proposals and set out the alternatives considered; and then provide an analysis and evaluation of the effects of the development on the human and natural environments on a topic by topic basis. Where potential environmental impacts are identified, mitigation strategies are put forward and residual impacts are assessed.

1.35 As such the ES is intended to provide the LPA with sufficient information to determine the planning application having due regard to the protection of the local amenity and the environment as a whole.

1.36 This document is presented as follows:

- **Non Technical Summary (NTS).** This provides, in non-technical language, a brief summary of the proposed development together with the likely effects that it would have on the environment. The text of the NTS has been included at the front of the ES and is also provided as a stand alone document in accordance with best practice, for ease of circulation.

- **Background Information (Chapters 1 to 4).** This Part is descriptive in nature setting out an overview of the application site and the surrounding area. It describes the development for which planning permission is being sought, both in terms of the physical appearance and the processes to be undertaken.

- **Environmental Assessments (Chapters 5 to 14).** For each subject area the relevant data and background information is provided and the potential impacts are considered. Where appropriate mitigation measures are proposed any residual impacts are considered. The specific subjects considered are:

  - Chapter 5 Alternatives;
  - Chapter 6 Traffic;
  - Chapter 7 Air Quality;
  - Chapter 8 Noise;
  - Chapter 9 Hydrology and Flood Risk Assessment;
  - Chapter 10 Geology and Land Quality;
  - Chapter 11 Landscape and Visual Impact;
  - Chapter 12 Ecology;
  - Chapter 13 Cultural Heritage;
  - Chapter 14 Cumulative Impacts; and
  - Chapter 15 Summary

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

1.37 In advance of the submission of the planning application, the applicant has undertaken a public consultation exercise to engage with and inform the public of the proposed development.

1.38 The consultation exercise involved a number of initiatives that are explained in full in the Statement of Community Involvement (see Volume 1 Technical Appendix E) that accompanies the ES.

1.39 The opinions of local residents and the wider community are essential and are valued by the applicant. The Statement of Community Involvement shows that engagement has been extensive during the preparation of the planning application and ES.

1.40 It is the intention of applicant that this will continue throughout the determination process. In the event that planning permission is forthcoming, on-going consultation is proposed during the construction and operational phases of the scheme.

PROJECT TEAM

1.41 This ES has been prepared by SLR. SLR is a multi-disciplinary environmental consultant to the minerals and waste management industries, and also provides advice to local authorities and the Environment Agency on strategic issues[4]. SLR is a registered Environmental Impact Assessor Member of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) and has achieved the EIA Quality Mark awarded by IEMA.

1.42 In preparing this planning application and ES, SLR has drawn upon the expertise of an in-house team of specialists comprising planners, landscape architects, ecologist, hydrogeologists and environmental scientists for the majority of the technical assessments.

1.43 SLR has also worked closely with the management teams and other consultants used by Clean Power Properties Ltd in a detailed and iterative process, to ensure that the working scheme is feasible as well as optimising environmental protection.

PUBLICATION

1.44 Paper copies of the ES can be obtained from SLR Consulting Ltd at the following address;

Treenwood House
Rowden Lane
Bradford on Avon
Wiltshire

[4] Further details regarding SLR Consulting Limited can be found on its web site www.slrconsulting.com.

BA15 2AU

1.45 The ES, along with the other Volumes are available in both paper copy and CD at a cost of £220 and £5 respectively. An electronic copy of the NTS is available free of charge upon request.