

**CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF A COMBINED CYCLE GAS TURBINE
GENERATING STATION AT RYE HOUSE, HERTFORDSHIRE**

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM RELATING TO THE VARIATION OF THE
CONSENT UNDER SECTION 36C OF THE ELECTRICITY ACT 1989 AND SECTION
90 DIRECTION AS PREVIOUSLY VARIED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON 30
APRIL 1991**

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO S.36 CONSENT AND S.90 DIRECTION
VARIATIONS**

October 2022

Note: This Explanatory Memorandum explains the proposed variations to the consent under Section 36C of the Electricity Act 1989 for the Rye House Power Station, in Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire.

Variation of Section 36 Consent

Paragraph 1 is varied by inserting the words 'Business' and 'Industrial Strategy', and deleting 'PowerGen plc' and replacing it with 'VPI Power Limited'.

Reason: to show the correct Government departmental body (BEIS) and power station operator (VPI).

Paragraph 2 is varied by replacing the words 'shall comprise either one or two' with 'is a' and replacing the words 'modules according to one of the following plant configurations' with the words 'generating station with a gross output of about 680 megawatts comprising:'. The table setting out the possible plant configurations has been deleted and additional wording has been added to the description of the development. This additional wording reads 'a) Three gas turbines and associated boilers' b) a steam turbine, c) a synchronous condenser, d) air cooled condensers for each module; e)'. The references to 'six induced draught cooling towers' and 'distillate oil storage facilities' has been deleted.

Reason: the details of the previous options for configuration of the Power Station are no longer relevant and have been deleted and the elements of the Power Station, taking account of the 1991 consent and the Variation Application has been updated. The Synchronous Condenser is listed at paragraph 2. c). The word "about" has been inserted before the words "680 megawatts comprising" as the original drafting refers to a capacity of 680MW, but technological and efficiency improvements over the years have resulted in the current capacity standing at 715MW – the word "about" provides the flexibility required so that the power station can operate at maximum efficiency.

Paragraph 3(1) is varied by inserting '21 March 1991, 19 April 1991 and 28 July 2022'.

Reason: the dates of the previous variation application have been inserted along with the date of the current Variation Application.

Paragraph 3(2) has been deleted.

Reason: because the Power Station has been constructed.

Conditions in Section 90 Direction

Paragraph 4, condition (1) is varied by deleting the definitions of “approved route”, “commencement of development”, “commissioning of first module”, “commissioning of second module”, “the County Council”, “main development” and “the Rivers Authority”

Reason: the definitions have been deleted as these are no longer relevant. The definition of “Company” has been amended to reflect the current owner of the Power Station and the definition of the “Development” has been updated to reference paragraph 2. The definitions of “Synchronous Condenser” and “Highway Authority” have been inserted.

Condition (2) is varied by

Reason: has been amended to ensure the Synchronous Condenser is constructed within the Power Station boundary.

Condition 3 “Time/Limits” has been deleted.

Reason: because the Power Station has been constructed.

Condition (3) (formerly condition (4)) is varied by deleting the wording ‘main development’, and ‘of the Development and the location of the following major permanent buildings and structures: i. Gas turbine house ii. Steam turbine house iii. Administration block and central control room iv. Workshop and stores v. Heat recovery boiler house and main stacks vi. Local control room 3.3 kv, 415 kv switchgear and battery room vii. Unit and generator transformer, viii. Oil storage tanks ix. Air cooled condensers Cooling towers, cooling water pump house and make-up settlement tanks x. Water treatment plant xi. Towns water tank xii. Reserve feed water tanks xiii. Fire fighting pump house xiv. Gas processing plant xv. Bypass stacks xvi. Gate house’. The following wording has been inserted ‘synchronous condenser works’, ‘drawings showing’, ‘of those works, including’, ‘size, appearance and external design of the buildings and structures, and proposals for cladding materials, surface finishes and colour and external lighting. The submitted details shall be in accordance with Drawing No. 5211454-LY-DWG-015 Rev A1. The buildings and structures shall be constructed and finished in accordance with such approved drawings subject to any subsequent variations agreed in writing by the Borough Council.’

Reason: the condition has been amended to relate to the Synchronous Condenser only.

Condition (5) has been deleted.

Reason: because the Power Station has been constructed.

Conditions (6), (7), (8), (9), (10) have been deleted.

Reason: these conditions relating to “Firefighting”, “Landscaping” and “Archaeology” have been deleted because they are no longer relevant.

Conditions (4), (formerly condition (11)) is varied by deleting the wording ‘demolition work in connection with the Development and during the period of’, ‘construction of the Development’, ‘Development’, and ‘construction operations’. The following wording has been inserted ‘the synchronous condenser works’, ‘those works’, ‘the synchronous condenser works’.

Reason: conditions relating to “Noise” have been amended to make their descriptions and proposed controls specific to the Synchronous Condenser.

Conditions (5), (formerly condition (12)) is varied by deleting the wording ‘first module’ and inserting the words ‘synchronous condenser’ and ‘a’.

Reason: conditions relating to “Noise” have been amended to make their descriptions and proposed controls specific to the Synchronous Condenser.

Conditions (6), (formerly condition (13)) is varied by deleting the word ‘the’ and inserting the word ‘works’.

Reason: conditions relating to “Noise” have been amended to make their descriptions and proposed controls specific to the Synchronous Condenser.

Conditions (14), (16), (17) and (18) have been deleted.

Reason: these conditions relating to “Air pollution monitoring”, “Delivery of fuel oil”, “Access to the public footpath adjoining the Site” and “Water Requirements” have been deleted because they are no longer relevant.

Condition (7) (formerly Condition (15)) has been amended by deleting the wording ‘construction’, ‘commissioning of the first module of the commissioning of the second module if construction has commenced’, ‘Development’, and ‘the construction of the Development’. The following wording has been inserted: ‘synchronous condenser’, ‘completion of those works’, ‘synchronous condenser works’, ‘those works’.

Reason: this condition “Removal of temporary structures” has been amended to make it specific to the installation of the Synchronous Condenser.

Conditions (8) and (9) have been inserted.

Reason: conditions to secure a Construction Traffic Construction Traffic Management Plan (‘CTMP’) and Construction Environment Management Plan have been added in response to consultee comments.

The 1991 consent has been deleted

Reason: this has been deleted as the variations to the 1990 consent it introduced have been taken into account in the proposed Variation Consent