EIA Quality Mark
Case Study

Deeside Energy Recovery Facility

Image courtesy of GSDA

<table>
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<th>Key Issues –</th>
<th>Purpose of the project</th>
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<td>- Detailed assessment of noise, odour and air quality emissions to ensure public confidence in the proposed technologies and demonstrate ability to be a ‘good neighbour’ on the industrial estate.</td>
<td>Wheelabrator Technologies (WTI) were selected as preferred bidder for the North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Project on the basis of their proposed solution for an energy recovery facility at the Deeside Industrial Estate in Flintshire. The proposed development will therefore deliver the preferred waste management solution for diverting residual waste arising across the North Wales Region from landfill, whilst using the waste as a resource to generate energy.</td>
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<td>- Detailed assessment to demonstrate that there would be no detrimental effects upon the integrity of Natura 2000 sites located close to the site.</td>
<td>Description of the project</td>
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<td>- Twin tracking of the Environmental Permit application to ensure that pollution control issues were appropriately considered at the planning stage.</td>
<td>The proposed facility will process around 200,000t of non-hazardous wastes from household, commercial and industrial sources using modern ‘mass-burn’ technology. The plant, which is housed in a building up to 42m in height, will produce around 16MW of electrical energy to supply to the National Grid.</td>
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<td>- Comprehensive pre-application engagement process to ensure the preparation of robust assessments which contained all the information required by consultees.</td>
<td>SLR has assisted WTI with the PFI procurement process and with preparing the planning application and undertaking a full EIA, reporting the findings in a comprehensive ES. In addition, SLR prepared the Environmental Permit application. Planning permission was granted by Flintshire Council in June 2015.</td>
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Lessons learnt

The success of the project can be ascribed to:

- A comprehensive pre-application engagement process developed by SLR, WTI and the Planning Authority to enable the iterative approach to EIA and mitigation to be developed; and
- Thorough assessment of environmental effects and the preparation and submission of the Environmental Permit in tandem with the planning application.

The key to the successful approach at Deeside was an open and integrated involvement with all interested parties from the outset. Early consultation with the determining local authority (and adjacent authorities), statutory consultees, interest groups and the local community ensured that the EIA process was undertaken in a manner that was inclusive and open. This ensured that assessments were robust and incorporated all the information required so that consultees could confirm that they had no objections early in the formal consultation process.

Lessons learnt cont.

- The comprehensive process to understand and address issues upfront and in a transparent manner led to the submission of the planning application and Environmental Permit in a short space of time and delivered a quick validation process for this major planning application.

This twin tracking process enabled land-use planning and environmental permitting issues to be discussed openly at the same time with stakeholders and avoided duplication of regulatory roles and responsibilities.

This programme of rigorous pre-application engagement and incorporation of revisions to reflect comments made ensured that the EIA process worked successfully to minimise the impacts of the development.

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