



STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION
FOR A BIOMASS POWER STATION IN HULL

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PROPOSED SITE FOR THE BIOMASS POWER STATION NEAR QUEEN ELIZABETH DOCK, PORT OF HULL

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 DONG Energy is proposing to build a biomass power station near Hull to generate renewable energy. A site has been identified near Queen Elizabeth Dock on the North Shore of the River Humber and within the port estate of Associated British Ports.
- 1.2 This document sets out our Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), which states how we intend to consult people living and working in the vicinity about our proposals. This SoCC is being published under section 47 of the Planning Act 2008.
- 1.3 We are seeking your views about our initial ideas, so that we can develop more detailed plans, and then we will ask for your opinions about our preferred options. The consultation process will start on 22nd April, with a target date of August 2010 for publishing the final Consultation Report. As part of this overall process, a set of documents explaining the project (including what is known as Preliminary Environmental Information) will be available for comment. These documents are expected to be available in May 2010 with a formal deadline for making written comments to DONG Energy, which is likely to be the end of June 2010. The availability of these documents and the deadline will be publicised in due course by formal newspaper notices and in other ways during the overall consultation process outlined here.
- 1.4 Once the proposal is sufficiently developed, and everyone's views have been taken into account, we will submit an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) under the Planning Act 2008. The Act requires DONG Energy to undertake public consultation in advance of any submission. This pre-application consultation is intended to make the planning process for projects of this type more straightforward. A more detailed explanation of how this process works is given later in this document.

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- 1.5 We have held initial discussions with Hull City Council, in whose region the site is located, and with East Riding of Yorkshire Council, in whose region many of the local communities are based, about the best way of communicating with people in their areas. Their responses have been taken into account in preparing this document. We will also continue to consult these local authorities and other statutory consultees on our proposals in parallel with our community consultation.
 - 1.6 We will ensure the SoCC complies with the requirements of the respective Statements of Community Involvement for each authority. In addition, we are aware that within Hull City Council an Area Action Plan (AAP) for the Holderness Road Corridor has been produced. Its thorough consultation with the local community has been recognised as good practice and we will adopt the same approach wherever possible during this consultation.
 - 1.7 DONG Energy will carry out a pre-application consultation in accordance with this SoCC and is committed to being open and transparent in all its dealings with the local community and key stakeholders throughout the pre-application consultation process.



2. WHERE TO GO FOR INFORMATION

- 2.1 Consultation and other project documents will be made freely available through various outlets, including local council offices and public libraries. Details of these outlets and their addresses are listed in Appendix B.
- 2.2 Consultation events such as public exhibitions will be advertised in advance in local newspapers and on local radio. We will also be contacting known community groups and key individuals such as ward councillors directly to offer face-to-face briefings.
- 2.3 We will publish summaries of the consultation at key stages and again at the end of the consultation process. All the results will be set out in a Consultation Report, together with explanations of how DONG Energy has responded to any issues raised and how they have affected the proposal.
- 2.4 You can request copies of documents or other information relating to the Humber Renewables project directly by using the freephone helpline – 0800 023 4497.
- 2.5 You can email us to request documents or other information at humberrenewables@dongenergy.co.uk
- 2.6 You can also access documents and keep up to date with any developments via our project website, www.humberrenewables.co.uk




3. OTHER CONSULTATIONS


- 3.1 DONG Energy is aware that a number of other consultations that may have a bearing on our own activities have recently taken place, or are ongoing in the area.
- 3.2 Within Hull City Council's district, the most relevant to this proposal are the Holderness Road Area Action Plan, City Centre Area Action Plan and the Core Strategy. We are also aware that a number of studies have been produced to support these planning documents. A study is also currently nearing completion on Hull City's renewable potential and the findings of this study will need to be considered by DONG Energy in developing its proposals.
- 3.3 The East Riding of Yorkshire Council is also currently consulting. Its Core Strategy and its Allocations Development Plan Document are due to be released for a 10 week consultation exercise towards the end of April 2010.
- 3.4 In addition, Associated British Ports is in the process of applying for permission to construct a new deep water jetty that would enable the Humber Renewables power station to ship in its biomass fuel using large vessels. This is a separate application and is therefore not covered in this SoCC.
- 3.5 These other activities will be taken into account when planning consultation events for the DONG Energy proposal, in order to mitigate any confusion about what is being consulted upon at any given time and to try and maximise opportunities for people to attend by not scheduling activities on the same day as other consultations.
- 3.6 In using the outcomes of this consultation, DONG Energy will seek to ensure that its proposals support the delivery of Hull City Council's sustainable community strategy and associated planning strategy.



4. A NEW WAY OF DOING THINGS

- 4.1 This SoCC is part of a new application process for projects that are defined as nationally significant infrastructure projects (NSIPs). The overall intention is to help the country to develop vital new infrastructure for essentials such as power generation and transportation more quickly, but also to engage local people at the earliest possible stage, than has been possible under the old system.
- 4.2 The definition of a nationally significant power station includes a facility that generates more than 50MW (megawatts). The Humber Renewables project would produce just under 300MW, so the proposal must seek approval under the new applications process. Essentially, any application for a nationally significant project is now considered by a new independent organisation called the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC).
- 4.3 This power station is an EIA development under The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009. This SoCC explains how DONG Energy intends to publicise and consult on the Preliminary Environmental Information relating to the project.

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- 4.4 The process that companies like DONG Energy must follow is laid out in the 2008 Planning Act. It introduced a new duty on applicants to ensure that proposals are properly prepared and consulted on before they submit an application for development consent. In particular they must:
- Notify the IPC of the proposed application
 - Consult and have regard to the views of relevant local authorities and statutory bodies (as defined in the Planning Act and secondary legislation)
 - Consult and have regard to the views of anyone with an interest in the land relating to the proposed application
 - Consult and have regard to the views of relevant local authorities on a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)
 - Publicise the SoCC, carry out consultation and have regard to any views received
 - Publicise the proposed application.
- 4.5 To help the IPC to assess and determine applications efficiently, guidance documents called National Policy Statements (NPSs) are being developed. These Statements are also subject to a wide consultation process and will give clear guidance about the national need for new infrastructure in different sectors.
- 4.6 Consultation on the NPSs covering energy (energy in general, fossil fuel generation, renewable energy, oil and gas infrastructure, electricity networks and nuclear power) closed on 22 February 2010 and the final documents should be available later this year. If for any reason the relevant NPS is not available when a particular application reaches decision-making stage, the IPC will make a recommendation to the relevant Secretary of State rather than make the decision itself.

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- 4.7 For nationally important infrastructure projects, the IPC becomes the final decision-maker. However, local authorities still have a very important role as a statutory consultee and the IPC takes their views and those of the people they represent very seriously.
- 4.8 This is where a Statement of Community Consultation like this one fits in to the picture. As part of the new rules, organisations applying to the IPC must be able to demonstrate that they have consulted with the local community at a much earlier stage than used to be the case. This not only allows local people more time to consider proposals and make their views known, it also gives the organisation involved the opportunity to find out how people are likely to respond and what their main concerns are so that these can be taken into consideration when developing detailed plans. For this reason, the new rules say that a SoCC should be published in full in a local newspaper and that the results of the consultation should also be made public.
- 4.9 If the IPC decides that consultation about a project has been inadequate, or if it believes or is told by the local authority that legitimate concerns arising from consultation have not been adequately addressed, it may decline to accept the application and insist on further consultation.
- 4.10 In addition to this pre-application phase of consultation, people will also have further opportunity to comment on the application once it has been submitted.

5. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS


5.1 What the consultation is about

- 5.1.1 This consultation will be about DONG Energy's plans to develop a power station in Hull that will use biomass as a fuel to generate electricity. It will also encompass related development, such as connection to the national grid. We have given this project the working title of Humber Renewables.
- 5.1.2 Biomass is a renewable fuel because it is derived from agricultural or forestry activities. The primary fuel for the Humber Renewables project is intended to be a combination of woodchip and wood pellets which will be sustainably sourced.
- 5.1.3 The power plant being proposed would be capable of generating just under 300MW (Megawatts) of electricity, which is roughly the amount required to meet the average needs of $\frac{1}{2}$ million houses. The exact design of the buildings will be determined as part of this consultation. However, from similar plant designs we can be confident that the stack (chimney) will be the tallest structure, although its exact height is dependent on regulations and will be determined by the Environment Agency. The main buildings would be no higher than 100m and would require a footprint of around 80,000m².
- 5.1.4 The proposed site for the biomass power station lies on the North Shore of the River Humber, adjacent to Queen Elizabeth Dock and within the port estate of Associated British Ports. The Humber Renewables project is dependent on the development of a new deep water jetty to bring fuel to the power station. The jetty is subject to a separate planning procedure and is the responsibility of Associated British Ports; however this consultation will make clear the inter-relationship between the two.



5.2 Aim of the consultation

- 5.2.1 We will be seeking public and stakeholder views about our initial proposals and on our preferred options. We will encourage local people to give us their views not only about our specific proposals, but also about how they might affect the area generally. This would include any social and economic advantages or disadvantages that might arise as a result of the proposed power station being built. As well as considering the likely impacts of the power station proposal itself, the public will also be asked for their views regarding related aspects such as the construction phase, which might have specific impacts associated with it.
- 5.2.2 As well as listening to, and taking account of, the views of the local community, DONG Energy will use the consultation process to communicate information about its proposals, the consultation approach and planning process, in an open and frank way.
- 5.2.3 As part of the development process, DONG Energy expects to produce the following reports and statements during the course of 2010:
- This Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)
 - The Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report
 - The Consultation Documents (including Preliminary Environmental Information) with a formal deadline for comments
 - The Consultation Report
 - The Environmental Statement
 - The application for Development Consent Order
 - The application for Environmental Permit



5.2.4 The documents on which there will be formal consultation (the Consultation Documents) will consider the expected environmental impacts of the proposal and, where possible, draw on the preliminary results of the various environmental studies under way. DONG Energy will also advise the public about any further studies that may be required as part of the consultation.

5.2.5 The Consultation Report will be published in August and made available through the same outlets as this SoCC, as well as being posted on the Humber Renewables website at humberrenewables.co.uk. The application documents will also be made available for public scrutiny and comment as part of the formal IPC process.

5.2.6 The aim of the consultation is to ensure that as many people as possible understand the proposals, have access to relevant information as it becomes available and have the opportunity to comment on the proposals by participating in the consultation process.




5.3 Strategy

5.3.1 The strategy for the consultation aims to develop a dialogue between DONGEnergy and local people. Essentially, there are two ways in which we will achieve this: either by providing information for the community to consider or actively transferring information between the community and the company.

5.3.2 Some information will be made available for external stakeholders to assess on their own and at a time suitable to them. Examples include the content of the proposal website, this SoCC and the report on consultation. Also included within this process is the development of information-based briefing notes for councillors or the media. All such communications will contain very clear routes for feedback and issues raising; for example, a feedback form online and our freephone helpline service.

5.3.3 At other times, DONG will proactively target and deliver information. Examples include public exhibitions or presentations about the proposals at face-to-face briefings with individuals or community groups. Responding to issues raised via the freephone helpline service would also fall into this category.



5.3.4 We will establish a formal process to record all comments made and responses given so that a detailed record of community consultation is kept. This information will be included in a Consultation Report, which will be published at the time of final submission of the application for planning consent. We are aware that Hull City Council uses a system called Limehouse to consult on its planning documents. The system captures comments received electronically, so that written comments can then be implemented and responses to these comments captured in order to provide a clear audit trail of responses to comments. DONG Energy will examine the potential of using the Limehouse system.

5.3.5 As a minimum requirement, the consultation will use the model laid out for a single stage process by the Department of Communities and Local Government in its guidance on pre-application consultation relating to the Planning Act 2008.

5.3.6 This document is available online at www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/guidancepreapplication



5.4 Timeline

5.4.1 The Planning Act specifies a minimum consultation period of 28 days. DONG Energy believes that a longer period will be necessary to enable sufficient consultation about a possible biomass power station to take place. We therefore intend to allow a period beginning from 22nd April in which to undertake pre-application consultation, followed by a further period in which to gather responses. Following initial consultation with Hull City Council and East Riding of Yorkshire Council, it is likely that the main community consultation activities will take place between 22nd April and mid-June.

5.4.2 A period of time will then be allowed to enable DONG Energy to review and consider the responses received and to prepare a final end of consultation report. The target date for publication of the Consultation Report is August 2010.


5.4.3 Any formal application is intended to be submitted to the Infrastructure Planning Commission before the end of 2010.

5.4.4 A more detailed timetable of consultation activities is given in Appendix A.



6. WHO WILL WE CONSULT?

- 6.1 DONG Energy will consult people who might be affected by, or take an active interest in, its proposal to build a biomass power station on the North Shore of the Humber. This will not only include people who work nearby, but people who live or work in areas that might be affected by the development.
- 6.2 Those in the immediate vicinity will include Associated British Ports, companies occupying adjacent land and businesses and residents within 500m of the site. Wider community engagement will encompass not only people within Kingston-upon-Hull, but also communities in the adjacent county of the East Riding of Yorkshire, including Paull, Hedon and Preston. These communities have been identified through initial discussions with Hull City Council and East Riding of Yorkshire Council. Desk studies have also been used to determine how close some communities are to the site and what their responses to previous planning applications for major developments have been.
- 6.3 We intend to include relevant parish and town councils, organisations representing the local business communities, tourist interests and visitors to the area, as well as community groups. We are also seeking to include groups who may have raised concerns about other development proposals in the past, where they still exist. For example, we will try to contact those groups who responded to the Energy for Waste Proposals at Saltend directly, along with the Energy for Waste Local Liaison Panel. We will also work closely with the relevant local authorities to identify any difficult-to-reach groups, such as transient workers and ethnic minority groups.



6.4 Outside the scope of this SoCC, we are also required by the Planning Act (section 42) to consult the following stakeholders:

- Statutory consultees, as defined in regulations, including such organisations as Yorkshire Forward, Highways Agency and the Environment Agency
- The relevant local authority – Hull City Council
- Neighbouring local authorities of East Riding of Yorkshire (within whose boundary several communities close to the site in question are situated) and North Lincolnshire
- Owners, lessees, tenants and occupiers of the land we propose to develop.

6.5 DONG Energy also intends to consult with other key stakeholders, who it has identified as potentially having an interest in its proposals. These include:

- Environmental organisations such as Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace
- The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
- The Ramblers Association.



7. HOW WILL WE CONSULT?

7.1 We are planning to use a number of different methods of consulting with the public and our other stakeholders. These methods fall into two broad categories – activities which involve the community and DONG Energy meeting together to exchange information, and activities which enable people to receive information and respond in their own time.

7.2 The discussion opportunities include:

7.3 Briefings

Briefings will be arranged with key individuals or groups. The purpose of these briefings will be to communicate the facts about the project face-to-face and to enable members of the community to discuss the proposals and raise any questions directly with a member of the DONG Energy team. We recognise that the same people may require more than one briefing, because new information will emerge as the consultation process progresses. Briefings can be arranged as a stand-alone event between DONG and an interested party, or form part of a pre-established gathering, such as a parish council or residents' association meeting.

7.4 Public exhibitions

Public exhibitions or roadshows will be arranged at appropriate locations in the area during both stages of the consultation process. This type of event will be used to offer a wide number of people in a given location the opportunity to learn about our proposals. As part of our commitment to two-way consultation, members of the DONG Energy team will be on hand to answer questions or discuss aspects of the proposals in greater detail. This will include the opportunity for one-to-one discussions.

7.5 Stakeholder meetings

Early stakeholder consultation may reveal some common themes that we want to explore further. These would be developed as the consultation progresses and we would arrange meetings with groups of key stakeholders, including representatives of the local community, to discuss these in more detail.

7.6 Local community liaison group

We will encourage the formation of a community or residents' forum, or liaison group, chaired by an independent person. This liaison group would enable the community to raise any issues or concerns that emerge and in turn disseminate information that addresses such concerns. We will proactively invite and encourage representatives from different stakeholder groups to participate. If the community agrees, we would encourage this liaison group to continue throughout the lifetime of the project.

7.7 The methods we would use to communicate information and enable feedback later include:

7.8 Advertising and editorial

DONG Energy will make use of the local broadcast and print media to communicate with the local community. Typically, it will use the local media as a means of notifying people about forthcoming events (including dates and venues), or milestones in the project such as deadlines for registering comments, or to address general trends emerging from the consultation.

7.9 Literature

We intend to produce literature that will summarise the proposals, the likely environmental impacts, the planning process and the consultation process. Some of these documents will constitute the formal Consultation Documents (including Preliminary Environmental Information) on which comments will be requested by a formal deadline, likely to be the end of June 2010. The availability of these Consultation Documents and the deadline will be publicised in newspaper notices and by other means as part of the overall consultation process. These documents will be made available free on request in print, and as a download from the project website.

7.10 Direct mail

Details of the proposed biomass power station and details of how to participate in the consultation will be mailed to residents within 5km of the site within the city of Hull. The populations of Hedon, Paull and Preston will also be contacted in this way to make sure that the maximum number of households is aware of the Humber Renewables project.

7.11 Website

We will establish a website specific to this project, which will include information about the project itself, as well as an explanation of the planning and consultation process. Copies of information leaflets, exhibition panels, etc will also be made available on this website. The site will include a feedback form for people to register any concerns or send questions to the project team. The website address is www.humberrenewables.co.uk

7.12 Freephone and email

A freephone number is available as follows: 0800 023 4497. This is a recorded answering service for people to register any questions or concerns that they might have, or simply to request information about the project. People can also feed back via our email at humberrenewables@dongenergy.co.uk. The freephone number and email will be publicised at all our events, on our literature, in the media and on our website. We will check daily for messages and we aim to respond within two to five working days.



8. HOW WILL WE KNOW THE OUTCOME?

- 8.1 All the issues raised during the consultation process will be recorded and carefully considered.
- 8.2 At the end of the consultation period, we will publish a Consultation Report. This will provide a general description of the consultation process and set out how we have complied with our obligations under the Planning Act and related guidance. The Consultation Report will also explain how we have taken into account the responses we have received and how our application has been influenced by feedback from the community and our other stakeholders. If we have not responded to relevant advice or comments, this document will explain our reasons.
- 8.3 We will ensure that everyone who contributed to the consultation is aware of the outcomes by making the Consultation Report available digitally via the project website and in printed form through the outlets listed in Appendix B.
- 8.4 With regard to the overall outcome of the proposal, and subject to a successful consultation, DONG Energy anticipates that it will submit an application to the IPC for a Development Consent Order before the end of 2010. A further period of formal consultation will follow this submission to enable people to comment on the final proposals. The decision will be published on the Infrastructure Planning Commission's website (<http://infrastructure.independent.gov.uk>) and will also be made known through the local press.

APPENDIX A: INDICATIVE CONSULTATION TIMETABLE

Timeline	Consultation activities
April 2010	<p>Briefings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - town and parish councils - community groups - key stakeholders - Hull City Council / East Riding of Yorkshire Council members and officers <p>Upload project website Establish freephone helpline Publish Statement of Community Consultation Research potential venues for community consultation events Community Liaison Group – call for nominees</p>
May 2010	<p>Begin briefings on preferred options Publicise exhibition dates and venues in advance Hold public exhibitions Continue briefing community groups and stakeholders Inaugural meeting of Liaison Group Publish Section 48 planning notices regarding availability of Consultation Documents (including Preliminary Environmental Information), inviting written comments by formal deadline (likely to be the end of June 2010)</p>
June 2010	<p>Complete briefings Collate feedback received on Consultation Documents by the formal deadline and other feedback received Second meeting of Liaison Group</p>
July	<p>Prepare Consultation Report Third meeting of Liaison Group</p>
August / September	<p>Publish and disseminate Consultation Report Prepare application, taking account of public feedback (and feedback from statutory and other technical consultees)</p>
October / November	<p>Submit application to IPC</p>

APPENDIX B: INFORMATION POINTS

Printed copies of the Humber Renewables Statement of Community Consultation and final Consultation Report will be made available through the following outlets.

Council offices

Guildhall Reception
The Guildhall
Alfred Gelder Street
HULL HU1 2AA

Kingston House Reception
Kingston House
Bond Street
HULL HU1 3ER

County Hall
Beverley
East Riding of Yorkshire
HU17 9BA

Libraries

Anlaby Park Library
The Greenway
Anlaby High Road
HULL HU4 6XH

Avenues Library
76 Chanterlands Avenue
HULL HU5 3TS

Bransholme Library
Goodhart Road
Bransholme
HULL HU7 4EE

Freedom Centre Library
Preston Road
HULL HU9 5QB

Gipsyville Library
North Road
Hessle High Road
HULL HU4 6JA

Greenwood Avenue Library
Greenwood Avenue
HULL HU6 9RU

Hedon Library
St Augustine Gate
Hedon
HULL HU12 8EX

Hull Central Library
Albion Street
HULL HU1 3TF

Hull History Centre
Worship Street
HULL HU2 8BG

Longhill Library
Longhill Health Care Centre
162 Shannon Road
HULL HU8 9RW

Marfleet Library
Preston Road
HULL HU9 5UZ

Stadium Learning Zone
(Library)
KC Stadium
HULL HU3 6HU

Travelling Library – Keyingham
(Ship Inn Car Park)

Travelling Library – Thorngumbald
(Willinghams Garage and
Village Hall)

Western Library
Boulevard
Hessle Road
HULL HU3 3ED

Customer Service Centres

Calvert Centre
Customer Service Centre
Calvert Centre
110A Calvert Lane
HULL HU4 6BH

Derringham Bank
Customer Service Centre
16 Willerby Road
HULL HU5 5JJ


George Street
Customer Service Centre
Kenworthy House
98 - 104 George Street
HULL HU1 3DT

Hedon
Customer Service Centre
2 New Road
Hedon
HULL HU12 8EN

Holderness Road
Customer Service Centre
1 The Mount
Holderness Road
HULL HU9 2BN

Ings
Customer Service Centre
Savoy Road
HULL HU8 0TY

North Point
Customer Service Centre
26 Goodhart Road
Bransholme
HULL HU7 4EE



Orchard Park Road
Customer Service Centre
222 - 224 Orchard Park Road
HULL HU6 9BX

Preston Road
Customer Service Centre
Retail Unit B
Preston Road Village Centre
97 Preston Road
HULL HU9 3QB

Walker Street
Customer Service Centre
The Octagon
Walker Street
HULL HU3 2RA

Wyke Area Co-ordination Street
Newland Avenue Primary School
Reynoldson Street
HULL HU5 3BH

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