

Our Ref: JLL0403
Your Ref: -

E-mail: bullockg@rpsgroup.com
Date: 13 December 2010

FAO: Mr Geoff Lyon
North Norfolk District Council
Planning Department
Council Offices
Holt Road
Cromer
Norfolk
NR27 9EN

Dear Mr Lyon,

PLANNING APPLICATION ON BEHALF OF BACTON STORAGE COMPANY LTD (BSCL) AND ENI HEWETT LIMITED RELATING TO PROPOSED TEMPORARY VEHICLE CHECKING AND CONSTRUCTION LAYDOWN SITE ON THE WESTERN HALF OF THE LARGE ARABLE FIELD SOUTH OF THE MAIN BACTON TERMINAL COMPLEX (BTC), ACROSS THE B1159 PASTON ROAD AND IMMEDIATELY TO THE EAST OF THE NATIONAL GRID AND INTERCONNECTOR TERMINALS

I hereby enclose a full planning application on behalf of Bacton Storage Company Ltd (BSCL) and Eni Hewett Limited (the applicants). The full description of development is as follows:

“Temporary use of land south of the B1159 Paston Road and east of the National Grid Gas Terminal for a vehicle checking and construction laydown area in connection with projects at the Bacton Terminal Complex, including a security office, project offices, warehouse buildings, staff welfare facilities, construction compounds, fencing and lighting, the creation of new access points with Paston Road, minor modifications to the gas terminals access road and entrances to the Perenco Terminal and associated works.”

By way of background, BSCL and Eni intend to convert the Baird and Deborah fields in the southern North Sea to natural gas storage facilities. Gas will be injected into the fields during periods of low gas demand so that it can be drawn upon during periods of high gas demand, in particular, during the winter, when demand from power generators and domestic consumers is much greater.

The onshore elements of the Baird project include the construction of new gas reception, compression and conditioning facilities within an area of the Perenco UK Terminal (part of the Bacton gas terminals), as well as a new landfall for the sub-sea pipeline that will connect these facilities with the gas field, which is approximately 86 kilometres from the shore. The LPA granted planning permission (ref. no. PF/10/0141) for these works on 27 July 2010.

The Deborah gas storage project requires the redevelopment of areas of the existing Eni Hewett onshore terminal (part of the BTC). New gas reception, treatment and transfer facilities will be installed as well as the landfall for two new pipelines. Planning permission was granted for this development on 24 November 2010 (ref. no. PF/10/0737).

The proposed temporary vehicle checking and construction laydown area is required to support the construction of the onshore elements of the Baird and Deborah projects and also a number of other projects that are being advanced at the BTC.

The delivery of these projects is in the national interest. The UK's own gas reserves are now in decline and the country is becoming increasingly reliant on imported gas to meet its energy needs. Gas will remain an important component of the UK's energy mix over the next two decades, and will have a particularly important role to play in filling the energy gap as ageing energy infrastructure is decommissioned and the new generation of nuclear power stations and major offshore wind farms are delivered. However, at present, the UK has only around 15 days worth of gas storage (France has around 100 days) meaning that it is heavily reliant on pipelines for much of its gas. The provision of gas storage projects, such as Baird and Deborah, therefore provide a much needed buffer for the UK in the event of any disruptions to imported gas supplies and increase the security of the country's energy supplies.

The application site is located to the south of the B1159 Paston Road and immediately to the east of the National Grid (NG) Terminal. The site is centred at National Grid ref. TG 33322 34260.

The site itself is roughly rectangular in shape and comprises of the western half of a large arable field, which has recently been cleared of barley. The site slopes gradually from north to south before the land starts to rise again. The entire application site extends to approximately 8.09 hectares.

The planning application comprises of this letter and 6 copies of the following:

- Planning Application Forms and Certificates.
- Site Location/Application Site Boundary Plan.
- Planning Application Drawings (printed to scale in size A1):

Drawing No.	Drawing Title
C09134-BA00-00-00-201-10026 RevB1	Existing Site Layout Plan
C09134-BA00-00-00-201-10025 RevB1	Proposed Site Layout Plan
C09134-BA00-00-00-160-10031 RevB1	Proposed Site Sectional Elevations
C09134-BA00-00-00-160-10026 RevB1	Proposed Security Office and Portable Toilet - Floor Plans and Elevations
C09134-BA00-00-00-160-10027 RevB1	Proposed BSCL Site Office - Floor Plans and Elevations
C09134-BA00-00-00-160-10028 RevB1	Proposed BSCL Project Warehouse - Floor Plans and Elevations
C09134-BA00-00-00-160-10029 RevB1	National Grid Site Office - Floor Plans
C09134-BA00-00-00-160-10030 RevB1	National Grid Site Office - Elevations

- Planning Statement
- Design and Access Statement.
- Phase 1 Habitat and Scoping Survey Report.
- Pre-development Tree Survey & Arboricultural Implications Assessment
- Landscape and Visual Resources Assessment.
- Historic Environment Assessment.
- Noise Assessment.
- Flood Risk and Drainage Assessment.
- Statement of Community Involvement.
- CD containing the electronic version of the above documents.
- 'A3 Planning Drawings & Aerial Photographs Booklet' (note the planning drawings are not printed to scale and that the main purpose is to assist in ease of reference).

Please note that the Transport Statement is appended to the Planning Statement.

The planning application is also accompanied by a planning fee in the form of a cheque for the sum of £8,040 made payable to North Norfolk District Council. The fee has been agreed with yourself in an email dated 7 December 2010.

I trust that the enclosed documentation is sufficient to enable the Council to validate the planning application and I look forward to receiving confirmation of this in due course. However, in the meantime, if you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or my colleague, Wai-Kit Cheung, in this office.

Yours sincerely,



GEOFF BULLOCK
Senior Director

Enc.