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### Draft National Policy Statement for Fossil Fuel Electricity Generating Infrastructure (EN-2)

This draft National Policy Statement (NPS), together with the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy EN-1, is the primary decision-making guidance document for the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) when considering development consent applications for the construction of new fossil fuel electricity generating infrastructure in England and Wales. It is part of a suite of NPS issued in draft by the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on 2nd November 2009. Consultation on the documents will run until 22 February 2010.

This NPS covers the following types of nationally significant electricity generating infrastructure over 50 MW electricity generating capacity:

- coal-fired;
- gas-fired;
- integrated coal gasification combined cycle; and
- oil-fired.

Biomass-only generating stations are covered in the Renewable Energy Infrastructure NPS (EN-3).

The NPS advises that the IPC should start its assessment of applications for infrastructure covered on the basis that need has been demonstrated. It does not propose specific sites for new generating stations, however it does identify key factors governing site selection, which include :

- land use - sites need to be large enough to accommodate carbon capture and storage and combined heat and power (where appropriate);
- transport infrastructure - sites need to be in the vicinity of existing transport routes;
- water resources - where the technology requires high water demand, applicants must be able to demonstrate that adequate supplies are available;

- grid connections - any application must include information on how the generating station is to be connected and whether there are any particular environmental issues likely to arise from that connection.

The NPS states that the IPC should not give development consent unless it is satisfied that the applicant has provided appropriate evidence that opportunities for CHP have been properly explored.

It is the Government's policy that all generating stations with a generating capacity at or over 300 MW should be carbon capture ready. Proposed coal-fired generating stations of less than 300 MW capacity are required to show that they will be able to capture CO<sub>2</sub> from their whole capacity. It is the Government's expectation that new coal-fired generating stations will be fully equipped with Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) once CCS has been shown to be economically and technically viable, and that this will be possible from 2020. In the event that CCS is not on track to become technically or economically viable, preventing retrofit, an appropriate regulatory approach for managing emissions will be needed.

The IPC should therefore include in any development consent for a coal-fired generating station conditions that before construction can commence the applicant should provide:

- evidence that all necessary consents, licences and permits are in place for construction of the CCS chain, including consents for any onshore and offshore pipelines used to transport CO<sub>2</sub>;
- evidence that a CO<sub>2</sub> storage licence for the intended storage site is in place;
- evidence that an Environmental Permit (EP) from the Environment Agency (EA) which incorporates conditions around the operation of the CCS chain is in place.

No construction, other than preliminary works, should be allowed to start until the IPC is satisfied that the above conditions have been fully met.

As fossil fuel generating stations are likely to be proposed for coastal or estuarine sites, applicants should in particular set out how the proposal would

be resilient to:

- coastal changes and increased risk from storm surge;
- effects of higher temperatures, including higher temperatures of cooling water; and
- increased risk of drought leading to a lack of available cooling water.

Part 2 of the NPS sets out the basis for assessing proposals. It advises for a variety of topic areas (including many of those normally covered in an Environmental Impact Assessment) : what the applicant's own assessment should address and what key principles the IPC should adopt in its decision making. It also advises on the weight to be given to certain issues and on the treatment of mitigation measures, particularly how these may be enforced through conditions or obligations. Any assessment will also need to cover those issues raised in the Overarching NPS for Energy (EN-1).

The NPS includes specific guidance on:

- air emissions;
- landscape and visual;
- noise;
- release of dust by coal-fired generating stations;
- residue management for coal-fired generating stations; and
- water quality and resources.

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