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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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**2000 No. 1927**

**ELECTRICITY, ENGLAND AND WALES**

**The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2000**

<i>Made</i>	- - - -	<i>17th July 2000</i>
<i>Laid before Parliament</i>		<i>20th July 2000</i>
<i>Coming into force</i>	- -	<i>1st September 2000</i>

The Secretary of State, being a Minister designated<sup>(1)</sup> for the purposes of section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972<sup>(2)</sup> in relation to measures relating to the requirement for an assessment of the impact on the environment of projects likely to have significant effects on the environment, in exercise of the powers conferred by that section hereby makes the following Regulations:—

**PART I**  
**GENERAL**

**Citation, commencement, application and extent**

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2000 and shall come into force on 1st September 2000.

(2) These Regulations apply in the case of—

- (a) any application under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989<sup>(3)</sup> for consent to construct, extend or operate a generating station; or
- (b) any application under section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 for consent to install or keep installed an electric line above ground,

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(1) S.I.1988/785.

(2) 1972 c. 68. By virtue of the amendment of section 1(2) of the European Communities Act 1972 by section 1 of the European Economic Area Act 1993 (c. 51) regulations may be made under section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972 to implement obligations created or arising by or under the Agreement on the European Economic Area signed at Oporto on 2nd May 1992 (Cm 2073) and the Protocol adjusting the Agreement signed at Brussels on 17th March 1993 (Cm 2183).

(3) 1989 c. 29.

which is received by the Secretary of State on or after the date on which these Regulations come into force.

(3) These Regulations extend throughout England and Wales.

## Interpretation

2.—(1) In these Regulations—

“the Act” means the Electricity Act 1989 and references to sections are references to sections of the Act;

“the consultative bodies” means—

- (a) (other than in relation to development which is or is to be situated in the English area) the local planning authority and any principal council for the area where the land is situated, if not the local planning authority;
- (b) where the application or proposed application relates to a site in England, the Countryside Agency<sup>(4)</sup> and the Nature Conservancy Council for England<sup>(5)</sup>;
- (c) where the application or proposed application relates to a site in Wales, the Countryside Council for Wales<sup>(6)</sup>; and
- (d) where the application or proposed application relates to a section 36 consent, the Environment Agency<sup>(7)</sup>;

“development” means the carrying out of building, engineering or other operations in, on, over or under land or sea in pursuance of any application to which these Regulations apply;

“EEA State” means a State which is a contracting party to the Agreement on the European Economic Area signed at Oporto on 2nd May 1992<sup>(8)</sup> as adjusted by the Protocol signed at Brussels on 17th March 1993<sup>(9)</sup>;

“EIA development” means development which is—

- (a) Schedule 1 development;
- (b) Schedule 2 development which falls within regulation 3(2); or
- (c) any other development which the Secretary of State determines is EIA development in accordance with regulation 3(4);

“electric line” has the same meaning as in section 64;

“the English area” means the area so defined in Article 1(2) of the Civil Jurisdiction (Offshore Activities) Order 1987<sup>(10)</sup>;

“environmental information” means the environmental statement prepared by the applicant, any representations duly made by any consultative body or any other person consulted pursuant to regulation 11(2)(a)(ii) and any representations duly made by any other person about the likely environmental effects of the proposed development;

“environmental statement” means a statement prepared in respect of development in accordance with regulation 4(1) (including any further information submitted by the applicant pursuant to a requirement under regulation 13(1));

“generating station” has the same meaning as in section 64;

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(4) See section 1(1) of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (c. 97), as substituted by the Environment Protection Act 1990 (c. 43), section 130 and Schedule 8, paragraph 1 and as amended by S.I. 1999/416.

(5) See section 128 of the Environment Protection Act 1990.

(6) See section 130 of the Environment Protection Act 1990.

(7) See section 1(1) of the Environment Act 1995 (c. 25).

(8) Cm 2073.

(9) Cm 2183.

(10) S.I. 1987/2197.

“local planning authority” has the same meaning as is assigned to “relevant planning authority” by sub-paragraph (a), (aa) or (ab) (as the case may be) of paragraph 2(6) of Schedule 8 to the Act(11);

“principal council” has the same meaning as in section 270(1) of the Local Government Act 1972(12);

“register” means the register kept pursuant to section 69 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990(13);

“Schedule 1 development” means development of a description set out in Schedule 1;

“Schedule 2 development” means development of a description set out in Schedule 2;

“scoping opinion” means a written statement of opinion of the Secretary of State given in accordance with regulation 7;

“screening opinion” means a written statement of opinion of the Secretary of State as to whether the development in question is EIA development;

“section 36 consent” means a consent under section 36 to construct, extend or operate a generating station; and

“section 37 consent” means a consent under section 37 to install or keep installed an electric line above ground.

(2) Except where the context otherwise requires, in these Regulations any reference to a numbered regulation or Schedule is a reference to the regulation in or the Schedule to these Regulations bearing that number and any reference in a regulation to a paragraph is a reference to a paragraph of that regulation.

### **Prohibition of grant of consent without consideration of environmental information**

**3.—**(1) The Secretary of State shall not grant a section 36 consent or a section 37 consent which relates to EIA development unless the requirements of regulation 4 have been satisfied.

(2) Schedule 2 development shall constitute EIA development if one of the events set out in paragraph (3) has occurred.

(3) The events referred to in paragraph (2) are:

- (a) the submission by the applicant in relation to the proposed development of a document referred to by the applicant as an environmental statement for the purposes of these Regulations; or
- (b) a determination by the Secretary of State (whether pursuant to a request for a screening opinion or regulation 6), having taken into account such of the criteria set out in Schedule 3 as are relevant to the development, that the application relates to EIA development as the development is likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue of factors such as its nature, size or location.

(4) In spite of the fact that any development is not Schedule 1 development or Schedule 2 development, the Secretary of State may, having taken into account such of the criteria set out in Schedule 3 as are relevant to the development, make a determination (whether pursuant to a request for a screening opinion or regulation 6) that an application for a section 36 consent or a section 37 consent is for EIA development as the development is likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue of factors such as its nature, size or location.

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(11) Paragraph 2(6) of Schedule 8 to the Act was amended by (i) the Local Government (Wales) Act 1994 (c. 19), section 20(4) and Schedule 6, paragraph 22 and (ii) by the Environment Act 1995 (c. 25), section 78 and Schedule 10, paragraph 30. The amendment referred to in (i) came into force after the amendment referred to in (ii), and consequently sub-paragraph (3) of the said paragraph 30 applies, and not sub-paragraph (4) or (5) thereof.

(12) 1972 c. 70.

(13) 1990 c. 8.

**Procedure for grant of consent where an environmental statement is required**

4.—(1) An applicant shall submit in relation to any application for a section 36 consent or a section 37 consent which relates to EIA development an environmental statement which includes—

- (a) at least the information referred to in Part II of Schedule 4; and
- (b) such of the information referred to in Part I of Schedule 4 as is reasonably required to assess the environmental effects of the development and which, having regard in particular to current knowledge and methods of assessment, the applicant can reasonably be required to compile, taking into account the terms of any scoping opinion given.

(2) In relation to any application for a section 36 consent or a section 37 consent which relates to EIA development, the Secretary of State shall not grant the required consent unless—

- (a) he is satisfied that the applicant has complied with his obligations under paragraph (1);
- (b) he has taken into consideration the environmental information (including without limitation any views expressed by other EEA States under regulation 12) and states in his decision in relation to that consent that he has done so; and
- (c) the procedures laid down in regulations 9, 11, 12, 13 and 14 have been followed in so far as they are applicable.

**PART II**  
**SCREENING**

**Procedure for a screening opinion by Secretary of State**

5.—(1) A person who is minded to apply for a section 36 consent or a section 37 consent for development which he considers may be EIA development may make a written request to the Secretary of State for a screening opinion.

(2) A request for a screening opinion shall be accompanied by—

- (a) a plan sufficient to identify the site which is the subject of the proposed development;
- (b) a brief description of the nature and purpose of the proposed development and of its possible effects on the environment; and
- (c) such further information or representations as the person making the request may wish to provide or make.

(3) The Secretary of State, on receiving a request for a screening opinion shall, if he considers that he has not been provided with sufficient information to give an opinion, within three weeks of the receipt of the request by him give notice to the person making the request of the particular points on which he requires further information.

(4) Where the Secretary of State considers that he has sufficient information he shall consult the local planning authority within whose area the land which is the subject of the proposed application is situated (or, in relation to a proposed development in, on, over or under the sea, such local planning authority or local planning authorities as he considers appropriate) as to its views on whether the proposed development is EIA development, unless the person requesting a screening opinion has already conveyed that authority's views to the Secretary of State.

(5) A local planning authority shall give its views to the Secretary of State within three weeks of the date on which it was consulted under paragraph (4) (or such longer period as the Secretary of State may determine).

(6) When the Secretary of State considers that he has sufficient information he shall give a screening opinion within three weeks of whichever is the latest of—

- (a) the date of receipt of the request by the Secretary of State;
- (b) the date by which he has received all the further information required by him in a notice given under paragraph (3); and
- (c) the date by which the local planning authority is required to give its views under paragraph (5) (or, if earlier, the date by which the Secretary of State has received the views of the local planning authority),

or within such longer period as may be agreed in writing with the person making the request.

(7) Where the Secretary of State determines that the application for consent is for EIA development, he shall provide with the screening opinion a written statement giving full reasons for his determination.

#### **Application made without an environmental statement**

6.—(1) Where an application is made to the Secretary of State for a section 36 consent or a section 37 consent but—

- (a) the application is not accompanied by a document referred to by the applicant as an environmental statement; and
- (b) the proposed development has not previously been the subject of a screening opinion,

the Secretary of State shall make a determination as to whether or not the application for consent is for EIA development within three weeks of whichever is the latest of—

- (i) the date of receipt of the application by the Secretary of State;
- (ii) the date by which he has received all the further information required by him in a notice given pursuant to a notice under regulation 5(3) as applied by paragraph (2); and
- (iii) the date by which the local planning authority is required to give its views under regulation 5(5) as applied by paragraph (2) (or, if earlier, the date by which the Secretary of State has received the views of the local planning authority),

or within such longer period as may be agreed in writing with the applicant and give notice to the applicant in writing accordingly, giving full reasons for his determination.

(2) When making any determination under paragraph (1) the Secretary of State may have recourse to procedures laid down in regulation 5 as if the applicant had made a request for a screening opinion and in particular may require the applicant to provide the information set out in regulation 5(2), may require further information in accordance with regulation 5(3) and consult the relevant local planning authority in accordance with regulation 5(4) and regulation 5(5).

(3) The applicant may, within three weeks beginning with the date a notice is given pursuant to paragraph (1) that the proposed development is EIA development, write to the Secretary of State to inform him that he proposes to provide an environmental statement.

(4) If pursuant to paragraph (1) the Secretary of State determines that the proposed development is EIA development and the applicant takes no action in accordance with paragraph (3) the consent applied for shall be deemed to be refused at the end of the three week period referred to in paragraph (3).

## PART III

### PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

#### Procedure for a scoping opinion by Secretary of State

7.—(1) A person who is minded to apply for a section 36 consent or a section 37 consent for development which is or may be EIA development may make a written request for the Secretary of State to state in writing his opinion as to the information to be provided in the environmental statement (a “**scoping opinion**”).

(2) A request for a scoping opinion shall be accompanied by—

- (a) a plan sufficient to identify the site which is the subject of the proposed development;
- (b) a brief description of the nature and purpose of the proposed development and of its possible effects on the environment; and
- (c) such further information or representations as the person making the request may wish to provide or make.

(3) The Secretary of State, on receiving a request for a scoping opinion shall, if he considers that he has not been provided with sufficient information to give an opinion, within three weeks of the receipt of the request by him give notice to the person making the request of the particular points on which he requires further information.

(4) When the Secretary of State considers that he has sufficient information he shall consult—

- (a) the person making the request under paragraph (1);
- (b) the appropriate consultative bodies; and
- (c) any other person who in the opinion of the Secretary of State is likely to be concerned by the proposed development by reason of his specific environmental responsibilities,

and give them three weeks (or such longer period as that person and the Secretary of State may agree) to make representations regarding the content of the scoping opinion.

(5) The Secretary of State shall not give a scoping opinion until he is satisfied that the requirements for consultation provided for in paragraph (4) have been met and he has considered any representations received by him pursuant to such consultation regarding the scoping opinion which he proposes to give.

(6) The Secretary of State shall give a scoping opinion within three weeks of whichever is the latest of—

- (a) the date of receipt of the request by the Secretary of State;
- (b) the date by which he has received all the further information required by him in a notice given under paragraph (3); and
- (c) the last date by which any person consulted under paragraph (4) is required to make representations (or if earlier, the date by which the Secretary of State has received the last of the representations of such persons),

or within such longer period as may be agreed in writing with the person making the request for a scoping opinion.

(7) Before giving a scoping opinion the Secretary of State shall, having regard to current knowledge and methods of assessment, take into account—

- (a) the specific characteristics of the proposed development;
- (b) the specific characteristics of that type of development; and
- (c) the environmental features likely to be affected.

(8) Where a person has, at the same time as making a request for a screening opinion under regulation 5(1), asked the Secretary of State for a scoping opinion under paragraph (1), and the Secretary of State has given a screening opinion to the effect that the development is EIA development, the Secretary of State shall begin the procedures relating to scoping on the date on which he gives the screening opinion.

### **Procedure to facilitate preparation of an environmental statement**

**8.—(1)** A prospective applicant may give the Secretary of State notice in writing that he intends to make an application for a section 36 consent or a section 37 consent in relation to any development and to submit an environmental statement with his application.

(2) A notice under paragraph (1) shall include the information necessary to identify, or be accompanied by documents identifying, the location and the nature and purpose of the proposed development, and shall indicate the main environmental consequences to which the prospective applicant proposes to refer to in his environmental statement.

(3) Where the Secretary of State receives such a notice as is mentioned in paragraph (1), he shall—

(a) give notice to the appropriate consultative bodies (and such other persons that are in his opinion likely to be concerned by the proposed development by reason of their specific environmental responsibilities) in writing of the name and address of the prospective applicant and of the duty imposed upon them by regulation 15 to make information available to the prospective applicant; and

(b) give notice to the prospective applicant in writing of the names and addresses of the consultative bodies and persons so notified.

(4) Where an application for a section 36 consent or a section 37 consent in relation to development has been made without an environmental statement, and—

(a) the Secretary of State has given notice to the applicant pursuant to regulation 6 that the development constitutes EIA development; or

(b) the applicant has informed the Secretary of State that he proposes to submit an environmental statement,

the Secretary of State shall take the action specified in paragraph (3)(a) and (b) which shall be read as if references to the prospective applicant were references to the applicant.

## **PART IV**

### **PUBLICITY AND PROCEDURES**

#### **Publicity where an application is accompanied by an environmental statement**

**9.—(1)** In any case where an applicant for a section 36 consent or a section 37 consent which relates to EIA development has provided the Secretary of State with an environmental statement the applicant shall publish in two successive weeks in one or more local newspapers circulating in the locality in which the land to which the application relates is situated (or, if the proposed development is in, on, over or under the sea, in such newspapers as are likely to come to the attention of those likely to be affected by the proposed development) a notice containing the information specified in paragraph (2).

(2) A notice to which paragraph (1) applies shall—

(a) describe the application in question and state that it is accompanied by an environmental statement;

- (b) state that copies of the environmental statement may be inspected at or obtained from an address in the locality in which the land to which the application relates is situated (or, if the proposed development is in, on, over or under the sea, an address in England and Wales) and specify the amount of any payment required to be paid for a copy of the environmental statement; and
- (c) state a date, not less than four weeks after the date on which the notice is to be last published in accordance with paragraph (1), by which any person may make representations in relation to the application in question to the Secretary of State and specify the address to which any such representations are to be sent.

(3) A notice under paragraph (1) may be combined with any other notice which the applicant may be required to publish in respect of his application.

(4) A reasonable charge reflecting printing and distribution costs may be made in relation to the supply of a copy of an environmental statement to any person except that the copies served pursuant to regulation 11(1) or 11(3) shall be supplied free of charge.

### **Publicity of opinions, determinations and decisions**

**10.**—(1) The Secretary of State shall send to the local planning authority within whose area the land which is the subject of the proposed application is situated (or, in relation to a proposed development in, on, over or under the sea, such local planning authority or local planning authorities as the Secretary of State considers appropriate) a copy of—

- (a) any screening opinion or determination under regulation 6; and
- (b) any scoping opinion,

and the relevant local planning authority shall take steps to ensure that such documents are made available for public inspection at all reasonable hours at the place where the register is kept.

(2) If an application for a section 36 consent or a section 37 consent is made and any documents relating to it are sent to a local planning authority pursuant to paragraph (1), the local planning authority shall take steps to ensure that the documents received pursuant to paragraph (1) are also placed on Part I of the register (together with a copy of any environmental statement served on the local planning authority pursuant to regulation 11).

(3) Where an application for a section 36 consent or a section 37 consent which relates to EIA development is determined by the Secretary of State, the Secretary of State shall inform the public by issuing a press notice (or by such other means as he considers appropriate) and shall send to the local planning authority within whose area the land which is the subject of the application is situated (or, in relation to a development in, on, over or under the sea, such local planning authority or local planning authorities as the Secretary of State considers appropriate) a statement containing—

- (a) the content of any decision and any conditions attached to any consent granted;
- (b) the main reasons and considerations on which the decision is based; and
- (c) a description where necessary of the principal measures to avoid, reduce and offset the major adverse effects of the development,

and that local planning authority shall make such statement available for public inspection at all reasonable hours at the place where the register is kept.

(4) The Secretary of State shall also make the information contained in the press or other notice issued pursuant to paragraph (3) available to any EEA State consulted in accordance with regulation 12.



### **Procedure where Secretary of State receives an environmental statement**

**11.**—(1) Where an applicant submits to the Secretary of State an environmental statement relating to an application for a section 36 consent or a section 37 consent and also serves a copy of the environmental statement on any appropriate consultative body, he shall—

- (a) serve with it a copy of the application and any plan submitted with it (unless he has already served those documents on the consultative body in question);
- (b) inform the consultative body that representations may be made to the Secretary of State; and
- (c) inform the Secretary of State of the name of every consultative body whom he has so served and of the date on which he did so.

(2) Where the Secretary of State receives an environmental statement in connection with an application for a section 36 consent or a section 37 consent he shall within two weeks of receiving the environmental statement—

- (a) give notice to—
  - (i) the appropriate consultative bodies upon whom the applicant has not served a copy of the environmental statement; and
  - (ii) any other person that in his opinion is likely to be concerned by the proposed development by reason of his specific environmental responsibilities,

that an environmental statement will be taken into consideration in determining the application, elicit whether any such consultative body or person wishes to receive a copy of the environmental statement and inform them that they may make representations or express their views; and

- (b) give the applicant notice of the copies of the environmental statement required by those consultative bodies or persons and of the names and addresses of the consultative bodies or persons concerned.

(3) The applicant shall serve copies of the environmental statement on any consultative body or person of whom he receives notice pursuant to paragraph (2)(b) and shall inform the Secretary of State of the date on which he did so.

(4) The Secretary of State shall not determine the application until after the later of fourteen days from the last date on which a copy of the environmental statement was served in accordance with this regulation and the date stated in the notice published by the applicant pursuant to regulation 9(1).

### **Projects affecting other EEA States**

**12.**—(1) Where—

- (a) an applicant submits to the Secretary of State an application for EIA development and it appears to the Secretary of State that the proposed EIA development is likely to have significant effects on the environment in another EEA State; or
- (b) another EEA State likely to be significantly affected by any proposed EIA development so requests,

the Secretary of State shall send to the EEA State in question as soon as possible and no later than the date on which the environmental statement in respect of that proposed EIA development is made available to the public in accordance with regulation 9 (except in a case where a request is made by an EEA State after that date)—

- (i) a description of the proposed EIA development, together with any available information on its possible significant effects on the environment in the other EEA State; and

(ii) a notice explaining the nature of the decision as to whether or not to grant consent for the proposed EIA development and informing the EEA State in question that it may, within such reasonable period as may be specified in the notice, indicate that it wishes to participate in the procedure provided by these Regulations.

(2) Where an EEA State indicates that it wishes to participate in the procedure provided by these Regulations in relation to the proposed EIA development, the Secretary of State shall, save to the extent he has already done so, send to that EEA State—

- (a) a copy of the application for consent in respect of the proposed EIA development;
- (b) the environmental statement in respect of the proposed EIA development; and
- (c) to the extent that it is not included in the items referred to in sub-paragraph (a) or (b) and subject to regulation 15(2), any other available information which is relevant to the proposed EIA development.

(3) The Secretary of State, insofar as he is concerned, shall also—

- (a) arrange for the information referred to in paragraphs (1) and (2) to be made available, within a reasonable time, to the authorities referred to in Article 6(1) of Council Directive [85/337/EEC](#)(14) and the public concerned in the territory of the EEA State likely to be significantly affected; and
- (b) ensure that those authorities and the public concerned are given an opportunity, before consent for the development is given, to forward to the Secretary of State, within a reasonable time, their opinion on the information supplied.

(4) The Secretary of State shall enter into consultations with the EEA State concerned, for such reasonable period as may have been agreed with that EEA State, regarding, among other things, the possible significant effects of the proposed EIA development on the environment in that EEA State and the measures envisaged to reduce or eliminate such effects.

(5) Where the Secretary of State notifies an applicant for EIA development that the provisions of this regulation apply in respect of the development, the applicant shall not make available to the public in accordance with regulation 9 the items referred to in that regulation until the Secretary of State has notified the applicant that he has sent to the EEA State concerned the information referred to in paragraph (1)(i) and (ii).

#### **Further information and evidence respecting an environmental statement**

**13.—**(1) The Secretary of State, when dealing with an application for a section 36 consent or a section 37 consent in relation to which an environmental statement has been provided, may in writing require the applicant to provide such further information as may be specified concerning any matter which is required to be, or may be, dealt with in the environmental statement.

(2) The Secretary of State may in writing require an applicant to produce such evidence as he may reasonably call for to verify any information in the applicant's environmental statement.

#### **Publicity in relation to further information and timing of determination**

**14.—**(1) In any case where an applicant for a section 36 consent or a section 37 consent which relates to EIA development is required in accordance with regulation 13 to provide further information the applicant shall publish in two successive weeks in one or more local newspapers circulating in the locality in which the land to which the application relates is situated (or, if the proposed development is in, on, over or under the sea, in such newspapers as are likely to come

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(14) O.J. No. L175, 5.7.1985, p.40. Council Directive [85/337/EEC](#) was amended by Council Directive [97/11/EC](#) O.J. No. L73, 14.3.1997, p.5.

to the attention of those likely to be affected by the proposed development) a notice containing the information specified in paragraph (2).

- (2) A notice to which paragraph (1) applies shall—
- (a) describe the application in question and state that further information is available supplementing the environmental statement which has already been produced;
  - (b) state that copies of the further information may be inspected at or obtained from an address in the locality in which the land to which the application relates is situated (or, if the proposed development is in, on, over or under the sea, an address in England and Wales) and specify the amount of any payment required to be paid for a copy of the further information; and
  - (c) state a date not less than four weeks after the date on which the notice is to be last published in accordance with paragraph (1) by which any person may make representations in relation to the further information to the Secretary of State and specify the address to which any such representations are to be sent.

(3) The applicant shall serve a copy of the further information on any person on whom was served a copy of the environmental statement under regulation 11(1) or 11(3) together with a copy of the notice mentioned in paragraph (1).

(4) A reasonable charge reflecting printing and distribution costs may be made in relation to the supply of a copy of the further information to any person except that the copies served pursuant to paragraph (3) shall be supplied free of charge.

(5) The Secretary of State shall not determine the application until after the later of fourteen days from the last date on which a copy of the further information was served in accordance with this regulation and the date stated in the notice published pursuant to paragraph (1).

## PART V

### MISCELLANEOUS

#### Provision of information

**15.**—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the consultative bodies (and any other person notified in accordance with regulation 11(2)(a)(ii)) shall, if requested by the applicant (or prospective applicant), or may without such a request, enter into consultation with the applicant to determine whether they have in their possession any information which they or the applicant consider relevant to the preparation of an environmental statement and, if they have any such information, they shall make it available to the applicant.

(2) Nothing in these Regulations shall require the disclosure of any information which is subject to an obligation of confidentiality under the law of England and Wales (including any information which is capable of being treated as confidential or must be so treated under regulation 4 of the Environmental Information Regulations 1992(**15**)).

#### Service of notices

**16.** Any notice or other document to be sent, served or given under these Regulations may be sent, served or given either—

- (a) by delivering it to the person on whom it is to be served or to whom it is to be given;

- (b) by leaving it at the usual or last known place of abode of that person, or, in a case where an address for service has been given by that person, at that address;
- (c) by sending it in a prepaid registered letter, or by the recorded delivery service, addressed to that person at his usual or last known place of abode, or, in a case where an address for service has been given by that person, at that address; or
- (d) in the case of an incorporated company or body, by delivering it to the secretary or clerk of the company or body at its registered or principal office, or by sending it in a prepaid registered letter, or by the recorded delivery service, addressed to the secretary or clerk of the company or body at that office.

### **Revocation, transitional and savings**

17.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the Electricity and Pipe-line Works (Assessment of Environmental Effects) Regulations 1990<sup>(16)</sup>, the Electricity and Pipe-line Works (Assessment of Environmental Effects) (Amendment) Regulations 1996<sup>(17)</sup> and the Electricity and Pipe-line Works (Assessment of Environmental Effects) (Amendment) Regulations 1997<sup>(18)</sup> are hereby revoked.

(2) The regulations referred to in paragraph (1) shall continue to apply to any application for a section 36 consent or a section 37 consent within the meaning of the Electricity and Pipe-line Works (Assessment of Environmental Effects) Regulations 1990 which was received before the date on which these Regulations come into force.

*Helen Liddell,*  
Minister for Energy and Competitiveness in  
Europe,  
Department of Trade and Industry

17th July 2000

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<sup>(16)</sup> S.I. 1990/442, as amended by S.I. 1996/422 and S.I. 1997/629.

<sup>(17)</sup> S.I. 1996/422.

<sup>(18)</sup> S.I. 1997/629.

## SCHEDULE 1

Regulation 2(1)

### DESCRIPTIONS OF DEVELOPMENT FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE DEFINITION OF “ SCHEDULE 1 DEVELOPMENT”

#### Descriptions of development

The carrying out of development to provide either of the following—

- (1) a generating station, the construction of which (or the operation of which) will require a section 36 consent and which is either (a) a nuclear generating station or (b) a non-nuclear generating station with a heat output of 300 megawatts or more; or
- (2) an electric line installed above ground with (a) a voltage of 220 kilovolts or more and (b) a length of more than 15 kilometres, the installation of which (or the keeping installed of which) will require a section 37 consent.

## SCHEDULE 2

Regulation 2(1)

### DESCRIPTIONS OF DEVELOPMENT FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE DEFINITION OF “ SCHEDULE 2 DEVELOPMENT”

The carrying out of development to provide any of the following—

- (1) a generating station, the construction of which (or the operation of which) will require a section 36 consent but which is not Schedule 1 development;
- (2) the extension of any generating station, where such extension will require a section 36 consent;
- (3) an electric line installed above ground with a voltage of 132 kilovolts or more, the installation of which (or the keeping installed of which) will require a section 37 consent but which is not Schedule 1 development; or
- (4) an electric line installed above ground in a sensitive area, the installation of which (or the keeping installed of which) will require a section 37 consent but which is not Schedule 1 development and does not fall within paragraph (3) of this Schedule.

For the purposes of this Schedule “sensitive area” means any of the following—

- (a) land notified under section 28(1) (areas of special scientific interest) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981<sup>(19)</sup>;
- (b) land to which section 29(3) (nature conservation orders) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 applies;
- (c) an area to which paragraph (u)(ii) in the table in article 10 of the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995<sup>(20)</sup> applies;
- (d) a National Park within the meaning of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949<sup>(21)</sup>;
- (e) the Broads<sup>(22)</sup>;

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<sup>(19)</sup> 1981 c. 69, amended by the Wildlife and Countryside (Amendment) Act 1985 (c. 31), the Wildlife and Countryside (Service of Notices) Act 1985 (c. 59), the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Act 1988 (c. 4) and the Planning (Consequential Provisions) Act 1990 (c. 11).

<sup>(20)</sup> S.I. 1995/419.

<sup>(21)</sup> 1949 c. 97. Relevant amendments were made by the Environment Act 1995 (c. 25), Schedule 10, paragraph 2.

<sup>(22)</sup> See the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Act 1988 (c. 4).

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- (f) a property appearing on the World Heritage List kept under article 11(2) of the 1972 UNESCO Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage<sup>(23)</sup>;
- (g) a scheduled monument within the meaning of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979<sup>(24)</sup>;
- (h) an area of outstanding natural beauty designated as such by an order made by the Countryside Agency, as respects England, or the Countryside Council for Wales, as respects Wales, under section 87 (designation of areas of outstanding natural beauty) of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949<sup>(25)</sup> as confirmed by the Secretary of State; and
- (i) a European site within the meaning of regulation 10 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations 1994<sup>(26)</sup>.

### SCHEDULE 3

Regulation 3(3)(b) and (4)

#### MATTERS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT UNDER REGULATION 3(3) AND 3(4)

##### **Characteristics of development**

1. The characteristics of development must be considered, having regard, in particular, to—
  - (a) the size of the development;
  - (b) the cumulation with other developments;
  - (c) the use of natural resources;
  - (d) the production of waste;
  - (e) pollution and nuisances; and
  - (f) the risk of accidents, having regard in particular to substances or technologies used.

##### **Location of development**

2. The environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected by development must be considered, having regard, in particular, to—
  - (a) the existing land use;
  - (b) the relative abundance, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources in the area; and
  - (c) the absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to the following areas—
    - (i) wetlands;
    - (ii) coastal zones;
    - (iii) mountain and forest areas;
    - (iv) nature reserves and parks;
    - (v) areas classified or protected under EEA States' legislation;

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<sup>(23)</sup> See Cm 9424.

<sup>(24)</sup> 1979 c. 46.

<sup>(25)</sup> Section 87 was amended by paragraph 1(12) of Schedule 8 to the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (c. 43).

<sup>(26)</sup> S.I. 1994/2716.

- (vi) special protection areas designated by EEA States pursuant to Directives [79/409/EEC\(27\)](#) and [92/43/EEC\(28\)](#);
- (vii) areas in which the environmental quality standards laid down in legislation of the Communities have already been exceeded;
- (viii) densely populated areas; and
- (ix) landscapes of historical, cultural and archaeological significance.

### **Characteristics of the potential impact**

**3.** The potential significant effects of development must be considered in relation to criteria set out under 1 and 2 above, and having regard, in particular, to—

- (a) the extent of the impact (geographical area and size of the affected population);
- (b) the transfrontier nature of the impact;
- (c) the magnitude and complexity of the impact;
- (d) the probability of the impact; and
- (e) the duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact.

## SCHEDULE 4

Regulation 4(1)

### CONTENT OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

## PART I

**1.** Description of the development, including in particular—

- (a) a description of the physical characteristics of the whole development and the land-use requirements during the construction and operational phases;
- (b) a description of the main characteristics of the production processes, for instance, nature and quality of the materials used; and
- (c) an estimate, by type and quantity, of expected residues and emissions (water, air and soil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat, radiation, etc.) resulting from the operation of the proposed development.

**2.** A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the development, including, in particular, population, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, including the architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the inter-relationship between the above factors.

**3.** A description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment, which should cover the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects of the development, resulting from—

- (a) the existence of the development;
- (b) the use of natural resources; and

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(27) O.J. No. L103, 25.4.1979, p.1.

(28) O.J. No. L206, 22.7.1992, p.7.

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- (c) the emission of pollutants, the creation of nuisances and the elimination of waste, and the description by the applicant of the forecasting methods used to assess the effects on the environment.
- 4. A description of the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and where possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment.
- 5. A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 4 of this Part.
- 6. An indication of any difficulties (technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered by the applicant in compiling the required information.

## PART II

- 1. A description of the development comprising information on the site, design and size of the development.
  - 2. A description of the measures envisaged in order to avoid, reduce and, if possible, remedy significant adverse effects.
  - 3. The data required to identify and assess the main effects which the development is likely to have on the environment.
  - 4. An outline of the main alternatives studied by the applicant and an indication of the main reasons for his choice, taking into account the environmental effects.
  - 5. A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 4 of this Part.
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## EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note is not part of the Regulations)*

These Regulations implement Council Directive [85/337/EEC](#) (O.J. No. L 175, 5.7.1985, p.40) as amended by Council Directive [97/11/EC](#) (O.J. No. L 73, 14.3.1997, p.5) on the assessment of certain public and private projects on the environment insofar as it relates to applications for consent to construct, extend or operate a power station or install or keep installed overhead electricity lines under sections 36 and 37 of the Electricity Act 1989.

These Regulations revoke the Electricity and Pipe-line Works (Assessment of Environmental Effects) Regulations 1990 (as amended by the Electricity and Pipe-line Works (Assessment of Environmental Effects) (Amendment) Regulations 1996 and the Electricity and Pipe-line Works (Assessment of Environmental Effects) (Amendment) Regulations 1997), subject to savings in respect of applications for consent which are received prior to 1st September 2000.

The regulations made in 1990, as amended in 1996 and 1997, implemented Directive [85/337/EEC](#) in its unamended form. These Regulations substantially remake the provisions of those earlier regulations, with the amendments necessary to implement Directive [97/11/EC](#).

The main changes made by Directive [97/11/EC](#) that are relevant to these Regulations are as follows—



- (a) overhead electrical power lines with a voltage of 220 kilovolts or more and a length of more than 15 kilometres have been added to the list of projects for which environmental impact assessment (EIA) is mandatory;
- (b) a case-by-case examination or determination set by reference to specified criteria is required in relation to every project of the types specified in Annex II to the Directive (Schedule 2 to these Regulations);
- (c) advice on the content of an environmental statement must be given to any developer who requests it;
- (d) the Secretary of State (a competent authority for the purposes of the Directive) must give reasons for his decision on granting or refusing development consent for a development for which EIA is required; and
- (e) detailed procedures are established for consulting other European Economic Area States on projects which are likely to have significant environmental effects in their territories.

Regulations 3 and 4 of these Regulations (together with certain definitions in regulation 2(1) and with Schedules 1 and 2) set out what constitutes EIA development and prohibit the granting of consent under section 36 or 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 unless the Secretary of State has taken into account the environmental information (defined in regulation 2) which is before him. All development listed in Schedule 1 is EIA development. Development listed in Schedule 2 constitutes EIA development if it is likely to have significant effects on the environment. Other types of development which require consent under section 36 or 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 may also constitute EIA development if likely to have significant effects on the environment.

Regulations 5 and 6 set out the procedures for determining whether or not particular development is EIA development. A person who intends to put in an application for consent may apply for a “screening opinion” from the Secretary of State. If the Secretary of State determines that the development does constitute EIA development, he must notify the developer and provide a written statement, giving full reasons for his determination.

Regulation 7 enables a person to seek a “scoping opinion” from the Secretary of State on the information to be included in an environmental statement. The types of information which may be required are set out in Schedule 4 to these Regulations. The Secretary of State must consult those persons defined in regulation 2 as consultative bodies before adopting a scoping opinion.

Regulation 8 sets out procedures to facilitate the production of an environmental statement. The consultative bodies are notified of the proposed development and the name and address of the applicant, so that they may provide him with any information relevant to the environmental statement in accordance with regulation 15.

Regulation 9 sets out the procedures for publicity which the applicant is required to comply with. Regulation 10 sets out the procedures for publicising the opinions, determinations and decisions of the Secretary of State. Regulation 11 sets out the procedures for serving a copy of the environmental statement on the consultative bodies. Regulation 12 provides for consultation with other members of the European Economic Area.

Regulation 13 sets out the procedures whereby the Secretary of State may require further information from the applicant and regulation 14 sets out the procedures for publicity which the applicant is required to comply with in relation to any such further information.

Regulation 15 sets out the obligation of the consultative bodies, and any other person who the Secretary of State has specifically determined is to be consulted as part of the consultation process, to provide to the applicant information which is relevant to the environmental statement. Regulation 16 deals with service of notices and regulation 17 deals with revocation, transitional and savings.

A regulatory impact assessment has been placed in the Library of each House of Parliament and copies are available from Consents Planning Division, Department of Trade and Industry, Energy

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