

Matthew Griffiths

Subject: FW: P2024/0296 - Hydrogen production facility Margam

From: Pia Diepman >

Sent: 26 July 2024 15:11

To: Matthew Griffiths

Subject: RE: P2024/0296 - Hydrogen production facility Margam

Hi Matthew,

Thank you for sending through the comments received regarding Contaminated Land, Noise and Air Quality which we have now had time to consider.

By way of update, we are finalising our response regarding the Construction Traffic Management Plan, Green Infrastructure Plan and the Transport Statement. We appreciate you passing on the contact details for Nicholas Waters and we will certainly liaise with him in order to agree the scope of the statement prior to submission.

Turning to the other responses.

Contamination - We note the reference to the unexpected contamination and a suitable worded condition to deal with this.

We agree with your assessment that due to the characteristics of the Proposed Development and its environmental setting, impacts regarding noise and air quality would be limited, therefore we would wish to provide further information to justify this position.

Noise

Comment: *“Please can the applicant forward any Noise Impact Assessment and Air Quality Assessment reports that they may already have produced for this development...”*

Response - the site is located in an established industrial area, situated on the existing Western Wood Energy Plant site with the Margam Green Energy Plant to the north, the BOC Gas & Gear Margam site to the south and the Port Talbot Steelworks is located to the west. All of these industrial uses along with the A48 and M4 contribute to existing established background noise levels.

It should be noted that the nearest residential properties are Ty'n-y-caeau off the A48 approximately 255m (from the site compound boundary to the closest point of the curtilage of the property). Approximately 160m of the 255m is soft ground. Between the compound and this property there is also the woodland block. Ty'n-y-caeau is 200m at its closest point to the Margam Green Energy Park, 83m from the A48 and 125m from the M4 motorway west carriageway – its noise environment we would suggest therefore will not be influenced by the Proposed Development.

Longlands House off Heolcae'r Bont Road, is approximately 290m from the Proposed Development (from the site compound boundary to the closest point of the curtilage of the property). Approximately 175m of the 290 m is soft ground. Furthermore, the Air-Cooled Condenser which is a tall structure is located in the sight line between the HPF compound and Longlands house so will act as a noise barrier. Both these properties are located on roads which serve the industrial uses in the area and accommodate a significant number of existing vehicular traffic. There is also soft ground between the Proposed Development and these receptors.

The loudest piece of equipment on site are the compressors which are housed in containers, emitting 85dB measured from a distance of 1m. The Proposed Development will be surrounded by a concrete firewall, measuring 2.5m in height, along the northern and western boundaries of the HPF compound area which will attenuate sound power output levels beyond the site boundary.

Based on the circumstances above it is considered that site operations associated with the HPF and HTTFS will not lead to an increase in established background noise levels at the nearest residential properties.

In terms of vehicle movements, a maximum of 36 two-way movements are anticipated during the 6-month construction phase and 24 two-way movements during the operational phase. Given the nature of the Proposed Development, the minimal level of traffic generated and the surrounding existing industrial uses, it is not considered that there will be any adverse impacts from the Proposed Development on noise.

Air Quality

Comment: *“An Air Quality Assessment is required to understand the impact of the development on the local AQMA and to understand the background and future baseline air quality and whether this will be likely to approach or exceed the values set by air quality objectives”.*

As you are aware, the site is not located within the local Taibach/Margam Air Quality Management Boundary.

During the operational phase, the Proposed Development will vent oxygen which is considered to improve local air quality in the vicinity of the site. Furthermore, hydrogen and nitrogen venting will only occur during shutdown and maintenance periods. Planned shut downs will occur twice a year over a very short period of time, so any venting will be very infrequent and for short durations.

Given the limited amount of traffic generated from the proposal, it is considered there would be no adverse impacts to air quality. The vehicle generation we consider can be screened out of an assessment using IAQM screening thresholds. The screening threshold for HGVs not in or affecting an Air Quality Management Area is 100 AADT. The level of traffic generated by the Proposed Development is below the relevant screening thresholds.

Heavy industry and long-distance transport are sectors where greenhouse emissions are particularly hard to abate. The proposed hydrogen facility will supply hydrogen to be used within HGV's travelling within the region therefore improving local air quality. The Proposed Development supports the net zero targets of both Neath Port Talbot and Welsh Government.

Regarding the information above we would suggest that noise and air quality assessments should be screened out of the supporting statement. We also note that NRW have not requested either of these assessments in their consultation response.

I trust the above detail is helpful, we would be happy to speak directly to Environmental Health to discuss these matters further should they consider noise and air quality assessment are still required.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Kind regards,

Pia



Pia Diepman (She/her)

Project Manager

Mobile {}

Web protium.green

Unit 110, 164-180 Union Street,
London, SE1 0LH



Confidentiality:

The information contained in this communication is confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, copying or distribution of this communication, or the taking of any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please delete or destroy all copies of this communication.

Please consider the environment before printing this email.