From: FRS Water and Access <FRSWaterandAccess@westsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: 11 December 2024 14:06
To: Planning
Cc: John Lainsbury; Grant Gatford
Subject: Planning consultation - DC/24/1289 Land To The South of Hartsgravel Wood Shipley Road Southwater West Sussex

Categories: Consultations

FAO: Stephanie Bryant

Dear Stephanie,

West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service have had early dialogue with Clearstone Energy, and we have asked some relevant fire safety questions, which were answered with the information available at this stage of planning, I have added a list of the questions we asked, the response we received is provided in red.

- The access road around the site will need to be a minimum of 3.7m wide to ensure a fire appliance has room to operate all equipment they carry, capable of supporting 18 Tonne axle weight of the fire appliance. The access road does look as though a one-way system type of access & egress for fire appliances would work well tactically. The access road around the site is a minimum of 4m wide. We have increased the weight capacity from 12.5 tonnes (approved doc B) to 18 tonnes based on the WSFRS vehicle data that Grant Gatford shared after our briefing call.
- The Water storage tank holding 240,000 litres- as a secondary means of filling and extracting water it would be worth having a 4" BSP female connection & isolating valve, we can then extract water if there were any issues with their on-site water supply system. Also, provide a standard double instantaneous female inlet connection and isolating valve so we could use our bulk water carriers to keep the tank filled if the situation required it. Thank you for the recommendation. As standard we include a coupling for manually accessing the water in the tank to provide redundancy and we will add an inlet connection as well. Details would be finalised post planning at the detailed design stage, in collaboration with WSFRS, to account for any changes in equipment.
- Is there any intention to use 'wetting agents' in the water system to increase the effectiveness. This would be picked up post planning at the detailed design stage. Firefighting tactics and use of agents will fall under the Emergency Response plan that we will develop in consultation with the BESS manufacturer that we are proposing for the project and WSFRS.
- It is mentioned as part of the Emergency Response Plan (ERP) that Firefighting facilities (water tanks, pumps, booster systems, fire hydrants, fire hose reels etc) are to be provided. Please clarify why hose reels are provided, as the Fire Service would not use them, unless these are for trained site staff to use. Fire hose reels have been requested on other projects so have been included as something that may form part of the Emergency Response Plan. If they are not required by WSFRS and there is no objection from the BESS manufacturer or facility insurers, then they will not be included in the final site design.
- Regarding the sump function/ site bunding arrangements please clarify that there will be sufficient fire run-off containment for at 228,000 litres, which is the minimum given the requirement for 1,900 lpm flow rate for a minimum duration of 120minutes. Removal and disposal of this run-off should be included in the management plans. Yes. The drainage system is designed to be able to contain a minimum of 228,000 of firefighting water. Containment is provided by a layer of aggregate that sits under both the northern and southern sections of the site, it is lined with an impermeable membrane to ensure that water cannot escape into the underlying earth. Both northern and southern sections have penstock valves on the outlet to local water courses so the system can be closed in the event of a fire. The northern section is the smaller of the two and has capacity for a total of 970,000 litres. There are take off valves located before the penstocks valves to enable water to be taken out of the system for treatment if contaminated.

- Information for use by the FRS should be provided on site within secure information boxes (this can be discussed with our Operational Risk Management Team). Agreed. Locations, box specifications and access arrangements would be defined at the detailed design stage in collaboration with WSFRS as part of the ERP. We are also proposing a series of first responder panels located within the site. There are interactive digital displays which would provide WSFRS with live information on the status of fire safety systems and alarms and the conditions within any battery unit on the site (temperature, flammable gas levels, suppression system activation). This is something that we deliver as standard on our projects and is now included within the updated NFCC guidance that was released in draft format in July for consultation (described as annunciation panels). We are proposing three panels at this stage, one at the main entrance and one in each of the northern and southern compounds, we would agree final locations of panels at the detailed design stage in collaboration with WSFRS and the BESS manufacturer selected for the project.

We will continue to work closely with the BESS development team to help ensure all fire safety matters are considered and suitable control measures are in place prior to the site's completion and use of the energy storage units.

I hope this response satisfies the planning application consultation with WSFRS at phase one of planning, together with our early consultation letter sent to you to be forwarded onto the developer, which I notice has not been included on the planning portal for this application. We will continue to work closely with you as the Planning Officer and the development company as the site progresses.

Please let me know if you require any further information or assistance with this application.

Regards

Ian

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My pronouns are he/him/his
Click here to find out why we use pronouns in our signatures



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