Public Health England

Centre for Radiation, Chemicals and Environmental Hazards
Chilton
Didcot
Oxon OX11 0RQ

T +44 (0)1235 834359

www.gov.uk/phe

Sue Eastwood
Public Health England South East
Unit 8, Fulcrum 2
Solent Way
Whiteley
Fareham
PO15 7FN

1st June 2016

Dear Sue,

Re: Planning application for Ifa 2 National Grid Land at Daedalus Airfield Lee-On-The-Solent, Hampshire PO13 9YA. Ref: P/16/0557/OA

Thank you for sending the request from the Local Authority for comments on the above planning application. The proposed development is for the 'onshore elements' of a high voltage electricity transmission interconnector, Interconnexion France-Angleterre 2 (IFA2). These onshore elements will include the construction of subsea and onshore high voltage DC cables, a converter station in the north east of Daedalus Airfield, and subsea and onshore high voltage AC cables. We have reviewed the Environmental Statement (ES) and our response relates to the public health impacts from chemicals and radiation.

Air quality

The potential impacts on local air quality are from fugitive leakage of sulphur hexafluoride (SF_6) from electrical equipment during operation, dust arising from construction activities, and exhaust emissions from construction traffic. Any potential release of SF_6 is unlikely to have a significant health risk, and no significant impacts on air quality are expected during operation of the site. The closest Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) is Gosport Road situated 3 km north east of the Daedalus site boundary. We note that forecast road traffic during construction will not increase to levels that will have a significant impact on local air quality. A construction dust risk assessment has been carried out as there are residential properties within 50m of Daedalus Airfield site and within 100m of the Chilling site.

We are reassured that, for each of the construction activities and landfall options considered, there is a low human health impact from dust emissions. Provided the applicant employs appropriate dust mitigation measures (ES section 16.8), the impact of dust from construction activities should be kept to a minimum.

Soil and groundwater

The main concerns regarding land contamination have been identified as radiation, unexploded ordnance, radioactive hotspots, fuel, metals, and asbestos at the Daedalus site. A Conceptual Site Model has been undertaken to assess any pathways linking the source of contamination with local receptors. We are reassured that, due to the nature of the proposed development, there were no significant impacts identified to groundwater resources or adjacent land users during the construction phase. In addition, no significant impacts to any receptors were identified during operation. We would expect that any works on areas of potentially contaminated land should be with the agreement of the Environment Agency and the Local Authority to ensure that there are no off-site impacts to local residents.

Electric and magnetic fields (EMF)

PHE notes the conclusions of the EMF assessment that the proposed development would be fully compliant with Government Policy on EMFs and fields produced would be below the relevant guidelines.

Conclusion

Based on the information that is provided in the application, we do not consider that the development is likely to lead to significant public health impacts provided that the management plans and mitigation measures identified in the ES are implemented during each phase of the project.

Yours sincerely,

Dr James Isaac

Environmental Public Health Scientist