

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

BIOSSSENCE (POLEGATE) LIMITED

BIOMASS COMBINED HEAT AND POWER PLANT

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

- 1.1.1. Biossence (Polegate) Limited ("BPL") is proposing to construct and operate a biomass combined heat and power plant ("the facility") on land adjoining Cophall Wood Transfer Station, Polegate, East Sussex. An aerial photograph of the location is provided in Figure 1.1; the general site area is circled in red.

Figure 1.1: Aerial View of the Site



- 1.1.2. The proposed facility will generate renewable electricity from recovered wood and solid recovered fuel ("SRF"), providing 'green' electricity to the National Grid. There are several options under consideration for using the residual heat that will be generated by the plant. These include exporting to potential users in the area and the installation of a steam turbine.
- 1.1.3. BPL is a joint venture between Resource Rehandling Partnership and Biossence Ltd.

- 1.1.4. Resource Rehandling Partnership (“RRP”) was established by two local businessmen who have a wealth of experience in the recycling industry.
- 1.1.5. Biossence Ltd was established in 2006 specifically to develop and deliver energy projects producing renewable power from biomass. Biossence develops and operates energy recovery facilities using biomass as the feedstock to produce renewable energy and heat.

1.2. Environmental Impact Assessment

- 1.2.1 A Screening Request was submitted to East Sussex County Council (“the Council”) on 2nd June 2009 in order to ascertain whether the Council considered the development required an Environmental Impact Assessment (“EIA”).
- 1.2.2 The information set out in the Screening Request provided sufficient detail to enable the Council to make a decision, i.e.:
 - (i) a plan sufficient to identify the land;
 - (ii) a brief description of the nature and purpose of the development and its possible effects on the environment; and
 - (iii) such other information or representations as the person making the request may wish to provide or make.
- 1.2.3 In relation to criterion (ii) above, information was provided regarding:
 - the nature of the proposed development;
 - the scale of the proposed development;
 - ecology;
 - noise;
 - socio-economics;
 - traffic; and
 - air quality.
- 1.2.4 In relation to criterion (iii) above, other information regarding the following was provided:
 - historical land use;
 - environmental consents, licenses, authorisations, permits, and designations for the site and surrounding areas;
 - geological, hydrogeological and hydrological data;
 - ecological conditions; and
 - access and infrastructure.
- 1.2.5 The Screening Opinion was received from the Council on 15th June 2009. This stated that the proposed development was EIA development, in accordance with Schedule 1 (Part 10) of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 1999 (“EIA Regulations”).

Consequently, it was necessary to undertake an EIA for the proposed development.

- 1.2.6 EIA is the process of collection, publication and consideration of environmental information in the determination of a planning application. Consequently, information on the likely significant effects of the proposed development has been gathered and is presented in this document, the Environmental Statement ("ES"). The ES accompanies the Applicant's Planning Application for the proposed development and will inform the decision-maker in carrying out the EIA of the proposed development.
- 1.2.7 The ES considers the likely significant environmental effects of the proposed development during construction and once completed and identifies ways to prevent, reduce and offset any significant adverse effects on the environment, these are known as mitigation measures.
- 1.2.8 The purpose of this document is to assess the potential environmental effects arising from the proposed development.

1.3. Planning Policy

The EIA Regulations do not require assessment of planning policy or guidance, however, where appropriate, National and Development Plan policies of relevance to the proposed development have been considered under each of the technical chapters of this ES. An appraisal of the relevant planning policy is contained in the Planning, Design and Access Statement ("PDA"), which accompanies this Planning Application. The Planning Statement does not form part of this ES.

1.4. Structure of Environmental Statement

- 1.4.1 The EIA Regulations (Regulation 2 (1)) interpret an ES as a document that:
"...includes such information referred to in Part 1 of Schedule 4 as is reasonably required to assess the environmental effects of the development and which the applicant can, having regard in particular to current knowledge and methods of assessment, reasonably be required to compile".
- 1.4.2 An outline of what this information comprises in respect of the proposed development and where it can be found in the ES is presented in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1: Location of Information within the ES that is required by Part 1 of Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations

Required Information	Location within ES
1. A description of the proposed development, including in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 materials used; 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. 	The Proposed Development (Chapter 6), Drainage (Chapter 7) and Construction Programme (Chapter 8) The Proposed Development (Chapter 6), Drainage (Chapter 7) and Construction Programme (Chapter 8) Air Quality (Chapter 10) Noise (Chapter 12)
2. An outline of the main alternatives studied by the applicant or the appellant and an indication of the main reasons for his choice, taking into account the environmental effects.	Need and Alternatives (Chapter 4) and Design Alternatives and Evolution (Chapter 5)
3. A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly effected by the proposed 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.	The Technical Chapters (Chapters 10 - 20)
4. A description of the likely significant effects of the proposed 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 the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the existence of the development; b) the use of natural resources; c) the emission of pollutants, the creation of nuisances and the elimination of waste. 	The Technical Chapters (Chapters 10 - 20)
5. A description of the proposed development comprising information on the site, design and size of the development.	Background (Chapter 3), Design Evolution (Chapter 5) and The Proposed Development (Chapter 6)
6. A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1-5 of this Part	Non-technical Summary (bound separately)
7. An indication of any difficulties (technical deficiencies or lack of knowledge) encountered by the applicant in compiling the required information.	Methodology (Chapter 2)

1.4.3 Regulation 2(1) of the EIA Regulations also states that the level of detail provided should include “at least the information referred to in Part II of Schedule 4”, which is as follows:

1. “a description of 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 or appellant 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”.

1.4.4 The ES comprises three separate volumes, namely:

- a) The ES Main Text & Figures:
This is the full text of the ES and comprises a total of twenty-two chapters which are illustrated throughout by a series of tables and figures.
- b) The ES Technical Appendices:
A complete set of the technical studies undertaken as part of, or in support of, the ES. The technical appendices are supplied as a separate volume to limit the size of the ES Main Text.
- c) The Non-Technical Summary (“NTS”):
The NTS provides a concise summary of the Proposed Development, its potential environmental effects and the measures proposed to mitigate or avoid adverse effects.

1.5. Project Design Team

1.5.1 This ES has been prepared by Environmental Compliance Limited and presents the results of various technical studies carried out in conjunction with a number of specialists and consultants appointed by the Applicant.

1.5.2 Details of the complete Project Team are provided in Table 1.2.

Table 1.2: Project Team

Company	Discipline / Role
	Applicant
	Environmental Consultants (EIA, Noise, Air Quality, Odour, Health Impact, Climate Change, Landscape, Socio-economics)
 PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANTS	Town Planning Consultant
 ZOF MANAGEMENT SERVICES 1000 HILLS VALLEY COURT CANAL ROAD, BRIGHTON BN1 6P TEL: 01273 812345 EXT. 1000 FAX: 01273 812345 EXT. 1001 EMAIL: office@zof.co.uk	Design
	Public Relations
	Technology Engineers
	Transport
	Ecology
	Archaeology
 R. W. GREEN LIMITED Tree Surgeons, Arboricultural and Landscaping Services The Lister Building, Upper Stoneham Farm Lewes, East Sussex BN8 5RH Tel: Lewes 01273 480727 Fax: Lewes 01273 480877 Tel: Seaford 01323 423599 Tel: Uckfield 01825 750746 INVESTOR IN PEOPLE	Arboriculture
	Communications