

What is carbon capture and storage?

Carbon capture and storage (CCS) is a technology that can capture at least 90% of the carbon dioxide emissions produced from the use of fossil fuels in electricity generation and industrial processes, preventing the carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere. The CCS chain consists of three parts: capturing the carbon dioxide; transporting the carbon dioxide; and securely storing the carbon dioxide emissions underground, in depleted oil and gas fields or deep saline aquifer formations.

Carbon capture and storage has been talked about for the Peterhead site before but hasn't happened, what is different this time?

SSE Thermal operates the existing Peterhead Power Station in Aberdeenshire. The power station became operational in 1982 and has an output of up to 1,180MW. In 2011, the UK Government selected Peterhead Power Station as a potential candidate for a pilot project of carbon capture and storage in the UK. The project, developed by SSE and project partners Shell, would have been the first world-scale carbon capture and storage (CCS) fully integrated solution to run commercially. However, in 2015 the Government announced that the £1bn grant for developing new CCS technology was no longer available.

Since this time, many factors have changed and advanced. The UK has legislated to cut national greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050, and Scotland has committed to being net zero by 2045. This will require a major transition in the way we generate and use energy, with carbon capture and storage being one of the crucial technologies able to support a renewables-led power system and as a necessity for reaching the net zero ambitions. The Climate Change Committee (CCC) has stated the need to invest in low carbon technologies and that the roll out of carbon capture and storage is a key action in achieving Net Zero.

How much contribution will the project make to the local economy?

Peterhead Low Carbon CCGT would require an investment of hundreds of millions of pounds to build. As a comparison, SSE's most recent CCGT project, Keadby 2 in North Lincolnshire, has seen a construction spend of £330m and is expected to directly and indirectly contribute over £500m to the regional economy over its lifetime, with more than £350m of this spent in the immediate local areas.

How many new jobs is this likely to create? Are you going to be employing local people?

It is anticipated that well over 1,000 jobs will be created during the construction phase of the project and a number of long-term skilled jobs will be required to operate the plant. The local economy will also benefit from additional business in the area, such as the use of local hotels, restaurants, and other service providers. SSE Thermal and Equinor are committed to supporting local economic supply chains, ensuring that real economic and social benefits flow to local businesses and communities as a result of our investment in this new energy infrastructure.

How will you minimise the impact to the local area?

As responsible developers, SSE Thermal and Equinor will aim to make a positive difference for the local community and wider region through the delivery and operation of the Peterhead Low Carbon CCGT Power Station Project, while minimising disruption. As with all projects of this type, it will need to go through the planning process, during which we will undertake assessments covering areas including traffic, transport and ecology.

Has the coronavirus situation impacted on your ability to consult robustly for this project?

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 situation, we are constantly assessing options in relation to consultation. We are committed to carrying out a clear, informative and robust consultation process and will always agree our approach with the planning authority before proceeding. In May 2021, the initial stage of consultation was held wholly virtually, however due to coronavirus restrictions being eased since the spring, we feel that a combination of both virtual and in person Covid safe public exhibition events is a suitable way of reaching as many people as possible in a safe way at this time. The circumstances surrounding Covid-19 and Government guidance will be continually assessed and if we think it is necessary, we may need to cancel the face to face events at short notice. If this is the case, we will do our best to inform members of the community as far in advance and as widely as possible.

What has changed since the stage 1 consultation in May 2021?

An EIA Scoping Report was submitted to the ECU in May 2021, identifying likely significant environmental and social impacts of the Project, and the proposed scope and methodologies for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Feedback has been received from a number of consultees which will be addressed throughout the EIA process. In addition, we have been engaging directly with a range of consultees such as the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and NatureScot on specific technical aspects of the EIA. The Project design has also been progressing iteratively alongside the EIA and we are now able to provide initial visualisations of the Project.

How can I provide feedback on the proposals?

There are a number of different methods that can be used:

- The Feedback Form – The Feedback Form is available as part of this virtual exhibition and is also available on the Project Website at www.ssethermal.com/peterheadccs
 - By post to Freepost – Peterhead Low Carbon CCGT Project
 - By email to thermalenquiries@sse.com
 - Leave a message on 0800 211 8270 – if you would like us to call you back, please include your name and number as part of your message.
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