



Equality Screening Template – Section 75 of Northern Ireland Act 1998

Please complete the coversheet details below:

Policy title:

'The Gas (Designation of Pipe-lines) Order (Northern Ireland) 2022'

This piece of legislation will designate a new 3km section of gas pipe-line at Kilroot power station for the purposes of the regulated common transmission tariff.

Decision (delete as appropriate):

~~Policy screened in~~

~~Policy screened out **with** mitigation or an alternative policy adopted~~

~~Policy screened out **without** mitigation or an alternative policy adopted~~

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25 May 2022 (initial draft) and 26 August 2022 (updated)

For Equality Unit Completion:

Amendments requested?

Yes / No

Date returned to Business Area:

26th May 2022

Date final version received:

Content

Part 1. Policy scoping – asks public authorities to provide details about the policy, procedure, practice and/or decision being screened and what available evidence you have gathered to help make an assessment of the likely impact on equality of opportunity and good relations.

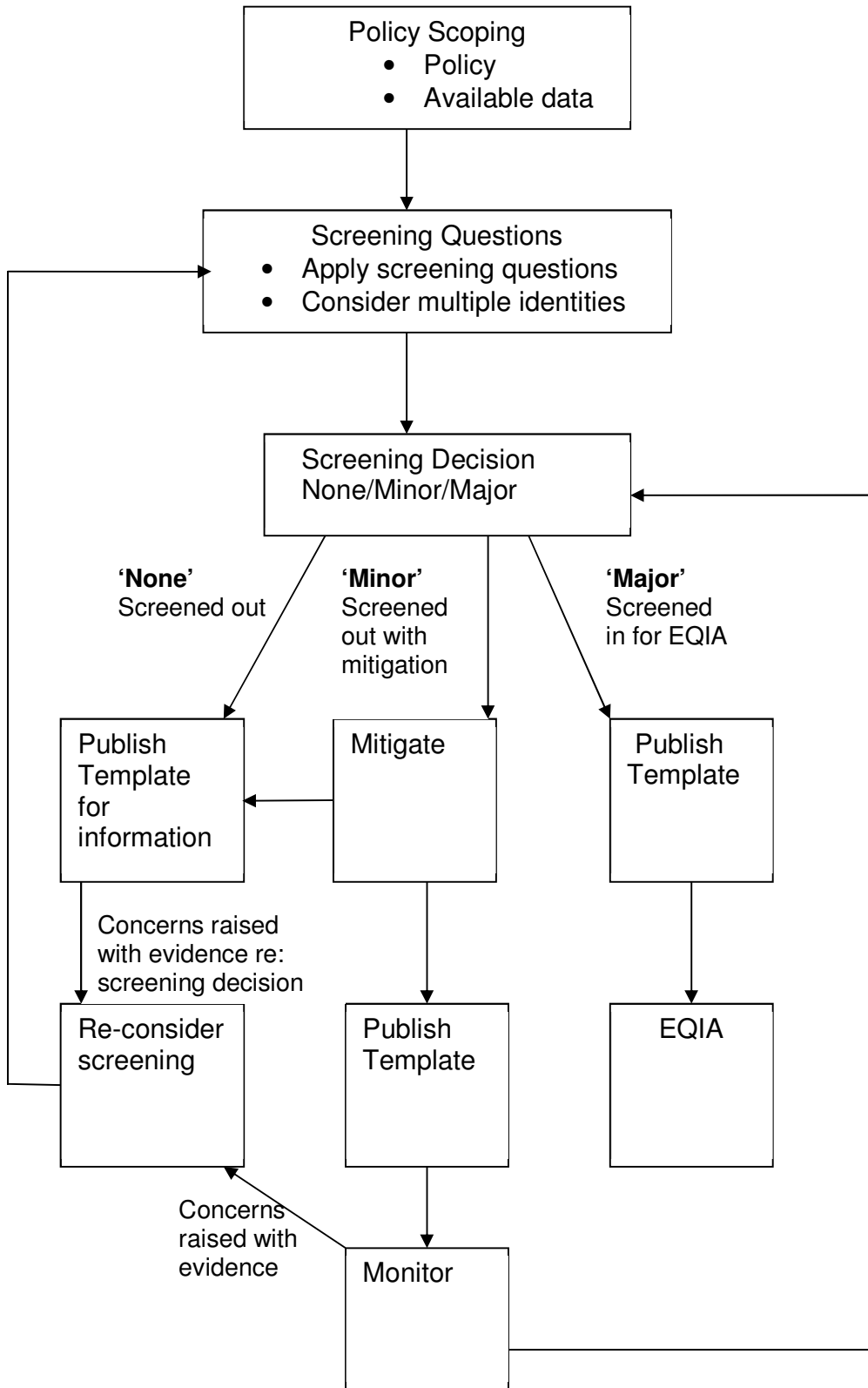
Part 2. Screening questions – asks about the extent of the likely impact of the policy on groups of people within each of the Section 75 categories. Details of the groups consulted and the level of assessment of the likely impact. This includes consideration of multiple identity and good relations issues.

Part 3. Screening decision – guides the public authority to reach a screening decision as to whether or not there is a need to carry out an equality impact assessment (EQIA), or to introduce measures to mitigate the likely impact, or the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

Part 4. Monitoring – provides guidance to public authorities on monitoring for adverse impact and broader monitoring.

Part 5. Approval and authorisation – verifies the public authority's approval of a screening decision by a senior manager responsible for the policy.

Flowchart for the equality screening process and decision



Part 1. Policy scoping

The first stage of the screening process involves scoping the policy under consideration. The purpose of policy scoping is to help prepare the background and context and set out the aims and objectives for the policy, being screened. At this stage, scoping the policy will help identify potential constraints as well as opportunities and will help the policy maker work through the screening process on a step by step basis.

Public authorities should remember that the Section 75 statutory duties apply to internal policies (relating to people who work for the authority), as well as external policies (relating to those who are, or could be, served by the authority).

Information about the policy

Name of the policy

‘The Gas (Designation of Pipe-lines) Order (Northern Ireland) 2022’ which will designate a new 3km section of gas pipe-line at Kilroot power station for the purposes of the regulated common transmission tariff.

Is this an existing, revised or a new policy?

The proposed legislation will implement existing policy for the development of the natural gas industry in Northern Ireland.

What is it trying to achieve? (intended aims/outcomes)

Kilroot power station, Carrickfergus (**‘EP Kilroot’**) is a primarily coal-fired power station, with oil as a secondary fuel, which plans to convert to natural gas. As part of the conversion project, a new section of high pressure gas transmission pipe-line is to be constructed to run underground for some 3 kilometres from an offtake connection to the existing Belfast Gas Transmission Pipe-line at Marshallstown (owned by Belfast Gas Transmission Ltd, part of the Mutual Energy Group) to the power station. Two Above Ground Installations (AGIs) at either end of the new gas pipe-line will also be constructed.

To support the economic viability of this project, and in line with established policy for the development of the natural gas industry in NI, the Department for the Economy (DfE) proposes to designate the new pipe-line for the purposes of the common tariff under Article 59 of the Energy (NI) Order 2003. This will allow costs associated with the new pipe-line to be added to a “postalised” pot as necessary and recovered from all NI gas consumers (business and domestic) through a regulated common transmission tariff within gas bills.

The implementation of “postalisation” policy through the proposed Designation Order will facilitate the conversion of EP Kilroot from a primarily coal-fired power station to natural gas, which is a less polluting fossil fuel, thus contributing towards lower carbon power generation in NI. This is in line with the new NI Energy Strategy, ‘Path to Net Zero Energy’, which was published in December 2021 and recognises natural gas as a transition fuel in the pathway to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy?

By ensuring the economic viability of the new pipe-line, the Designation Order will facilitate the conversion of EP Kilroot from coal to natural gas and allow for more lower carbon power generation in Northern Ireland. Natural gas emits some 50 to 60 percent less carbon dioxide (CO₂) when combusted in a new, efficient natural gas fired power plant compared with emissions from a typical coal fired plant. Compared to its existing coal-fired plant, the Proposed Development and Overall Project for Kilroot’s conversion to natural gas shows a reduction of 400 tonnes of CO₂e per GWh of electricity generated.

The environmental benefits of EP Kilroot converting to gas will impact generally on the local population, particularly those living in close proximity to the power station. Carrickfergus has some 28,000¹ residents, including some 6,500 children, over 4,000 in the 65+ age group and over 2,700 people with a long-term health condition involving shortness of breath or difficulty breathing.

Without conversion, EP Kilroot would be facing closure by 2024 as its coal-burning technology would not meet environmental standards. Therefore, by enabling EP Kilroot to continue generating electricity, the new gas pipe-line will

¹ Statistics are taken from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency 2011 Census report.

also provide additional security of electricity supply for Northern Ireland which will benefit the wider population.

The cost of constructing the new pipe-line and associated infrastructure is estimated at up to £15 million. EP Kilroot will cover the capital cost of the project as part of their power generation business and this will not be recovered through the common tariff in gas bills².

Belfast Gas Transmission Ltd ('**BGTL**') will be responsible for the future costs involved in maintaining the pipe-line. These costs, estimated at approximately £120k per annum, will be recovered through the common tariff which currently accounts for around 5% of a domestic customer's gas bill.

It is not expected that the Kilroot pipe-line will lead to an increase in the common tariff and the project could even have a positive effect. As the common tariff is calculated on the basis of required revenue divided by forecast capacity bookings, additional gas volumes resulting from EP Kilroot's conversion to natural gas could have a potential price benefit for gas consumers. However, there is insufficient clarity on forecasts at this stage to be certain.

Who initiated or wrote the policy?

The Department for the Economy in liaison with the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation ('**the Utility Regulator**').

Who owns and who implements the policy?

The Department for the Economy in liaison with the Utility Regulator in accordance with Article 59(1) of the Energy Order.

Implementation factors

Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the policy/decision?

² EP Kilroot will recover the £15m capital cost of the new gas pipe-line through NI consumers' electricity bills but this is not expected to have a significant impact on bills.

If yes, are they (please delete as appropriate)

- **Financial** - The strictly regulated costs of providing new gas networks in NI are generally passed through to consumers. However, the capital cost of providing the new pipe-line in question will not be recovered from gas consumers, only ongoing maintenance and operating costs, and it is not anticipated that the project will lead to an increase in gas bills.
- **Legislative** - Articles 59 and 60 of the Energy (NI) Order 2003 provide for “designation” of gas pipe-lines connected to a high-pressure pipe-line for the purposes of a common tariff thus socialising these costs across all gas consumers in NI. Without designation, the pipe-line might not be economically viable which could threaten the power station’s conversion from coal to natural gas and therefore impact on the security of electricity supply in NI.
- other, please specify _____

Main stakeholders affected

Who are the internal and external stakeholders (actual or potential) that the policy will impact upon? (please delete as appropriate)

- **Staff**)
) Postalisation policy, implemented
- **Service users**) through Designation Orders,
) impacts on all gas consumers in
- **Other public sector organisations**) NI through their gas bills.
)
- **Voluntary/community/trade unions**)
- **Other, please specify** - EP Kilroot and BGTL - the proposed Designation Order ensures the economic viability of their project to convert EP Kilroot to natural gas.

Other policies with a bearing on this policy – This legislation will facilitate EP Kilroot’s conversion from coal to natural gas which is in line with the new energy strategy for Northern Ireland - ‘Path to Net Zero Energy’, which was published in

December 2021. The energy strategy recognises natural gas as a transition fuel in the pathway to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Available evidence

Evidence to help inform the screening process may take many forms. Public authorities should ensure that their screening decision is informed by relevant data. The Commission has produced this guide to [signpost to S75 data](#).

What evidence/information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy? Specify details for each of the Section 75 categories.

The policy of postalising the cost of providing major new gas infrastructure through a regulated common transmission tariff was consulted upon separately in 2002 as part of the preparation for the implementation of the Energy (NI) Order 2003. The Energy Order subsequently put in place the powers necessary to give effect to postalisation, including giving the Department the power (Article 59) to designate pipelines for the purpose of securing that the prices charged for conveyance of gas through designated pipelines are in accordance with a Common Tariff (Article 60).

By end-2021, some 303,000 businesses and households in Northern Ireland had connected to natural gas. Designation Orders allow the cost of providing and maintaining the NI gas transmission network to be recovered from NI gas consumers through the regulated common transmission tariff within their gas bills over an extended period. The common tariff currently represents around 5% of domestic gas bills. The new gas pipeline at EP Kilroot is not expected to lead to an increase in this tariff and it has potential to have a positive price benefit for gas consumers.

By facilitating the conversion of EP Kilroot from coal to natural gas, which is a less polluting fossil fuel, the proposed Designation Order will have indirect environmental benefits for the NI population of c1.9 million. As noted above, a natural gas fired power plant emits some 50 to 60 percent less carbon dioxide (CO₂) than a coal fired plant.

Update: The proposed Designation Order was published for consultation in line with the requirements outlined in Article 59(4) of the Energy (NI) Order 2003, along with this equality screening template and other impact assessments, with any representations invited by 23rd August 2022. The public notice can be viewed by accessing the Department's website at

<https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/consultations>. *The Department received two queries and three substantive responses to the consultation which were supportive. No equality issues were raised.*

Religious belief evidence/ information:

It is not anticipated that the proposed Designation Order will have a differential impact on people of different religious belief.

This is a largely technical piece of legislation which will help to ensure the economic viability of a project expected to have environmental benefits. It is not anticipated that the project will lead to an increase in gas bills.

Political Opinion evidence/ information:

It is not anticipated that the proposed Designation Order will have a differential impact on people of different political opinions.

This is a largely technical piece of legislation which will help to ensure the economic viability of a project expected to have environmental benefits. It is not anticipated that the project will lead to an increase in gas bills.

Racial Group evidence/ information:

It is not anticipated that the proposed Designation Order will have a differential impact on people in different racial groups.

This is a largely technical piece of legislation which will help to ensure the economic viability of a project expected to have environmental benefits. It is not anticipated that the project will lead to an increase in gas bills.

Age evidence/ information:

It is not anticipated that the proposed Designation Order will have a differential impact on people of different ages.

This is a largely technical piece of legislation which will help to ensure the economic viability of a project expected to have environmental benefits. It is not anticipated that the project will lead to an increase in gas bills.

However, the health of more vulnerable people within the NI population, including children, people with disabilities and older people, may in particular derive some indirect benefit from the proposed Designation Order via reduced CO₂ and other emissions following EP Kilroot's conversion from coal to natural gas.

Marital Status evidence/ information:

It is not anticipated that the proposed Designation Order will have a differential impact on people according to marital status.

This is a largely technical piece of legislation which will help to ensure the economic viability of a project expected to have environmental benefits. It is not anticipated that the project will lead to an increase in gas bills.

Sexual Orientation evidence/ information:

It is not anticipated that the proposed Designation Order will have a differential impact on people according to sexual orientation.

This is a largely technical piece of legislation which will help to ensure the economic viability of a project expected to have environmental benefits. It is not anticipated that the project will lead to an increase in gas bills.

Men & Women generally evidence/ information:

It is not anticipated that the proposed Designation Order will have a differential impact on people according to gender identity.

This is a largely technical piece of legislation which will help to ensure the economic viability of a project expected to have environmental benefits. It is not anticipated that the project will lead to an increase in gas bills.

Disability evidence/ information:

It is not anticipated that the proposed Designation Order will have a differential impact on people of different ages.

This is a largely technical piece of legislation which will help to ensure the economic viability of a project expected to have environmental benefits. It is not anticipated that the project will lead to an increase in gas bills.

However, the health of more vulnerable people within the NI population, including children, people with disabilities and older people, may in particular derive some indirect benefit from the proposed Designation Order via reduced CO₂ and other emissions following EP Kilroot's conversion from coal to natural gas.

Dependants evidence/ information:

It is not anticipated that the proposed Designation Order will have a differential impact on people with or without dependants.

This is a largely technical piece of legislation which will help to ensure the economic viability of a project expected to have environmental benefits. It is not anticipated that the project will lead to an increase in gas bills.

Needs, experiences and priorities

Taking into account the information referred to above, what are the different needs, experiences and priorities of each of the following categories, in relation to the particular policy/decision?

Specify details of the needs, experiences and priorities for each of the Section 75 categories below:

Religious belief

None identified.

Political Opinion

None identified

Racial Group

None identified

Age

The health of more vulnerable people in particular within the NI population, including children, people with disabilities and older people, may derive some indirect benefit from the proposed Designation Order via reduced CO₂ and other emissions following EP Kilroot's conversion from coal to natural gas.

Marital status

None identified.

Sexual orientation

None identified

Men and Women Generally

None identified

Disability

The health of more vulnerable people in particular within the NI population, including children, people with disabilities and older people, may derive some indirect benefit from the proposed Designation Order via reduced CO₂ and other emissions following EP Kilroot's conversion from coal to natural gas.

Dependants

None identified.

Part 2. Screening questions

Introduction

In making a decision as to whether or not there is a need to carry out an equality impact assessment, the public authority should consider its answers to the Screening Questions 1-4, which follow.

If the public authority's conclusion is **none** in respect of all of the Section 75 equality of opportunity and/or good relations categories, then the public authority may decide to screen the policy out. If a policy is 'screened out' as having no relevance to equality of opportunity or good relations, a public authority should give details of the reasons for the decision taken.

If the public authority's conclusion is **major** in respect of one or more of the Section 75 equality of opportunity and/or good relations categories, then consideration should be given to subjecting the policy to the equality impact assessment procedure.

If the public authority's conclusion is **minor** in respect of one or more of the Section 75 equality categories and/or good relations categories, then consideration should still be given to proceeding with an equality impact assessment, or to:

- measures to mitigate the adverse impact; or
- the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

In favour of a 'major' impact

- a) The policy is significant in terms of its strategic importance;
- b) Potential equality impacts are unknown, because, for example, there is insufficient data upon which to make an assessment or because they are complex, and it would be appropriate to conduct an equality impact assessment in order to better assess them;
- c) Potential equality and/or good relations impacts are likely to be adverse or are likely to be experienced disproportionately by groups of people including those who are marginalised or disadvantaged;
- d) Further assessment offers a valuable way to examine the evidence and develop recommendations in respect of a policy about which there are

concerns amongst affected individuals and representative groups, for example in respect of multiple identities;

- e) The policy is likely to be challenged by way of judicial review;
- f) The policy is significant in terms of expenditure.

In favour of 'minor' impact

- a) The policy is not unlawfully discriminatory and any residual potential impacts on people are judged to be negligible;
- b) The policy, or certain proposals within it, are potentially unlawfully discriminatory, but this possibility can readily and easily be eliminated by making appropriate changes to the policy or by adopting appropriate mitigating measures;
- c) Any asymmetrical equality impacts caused by the policy are intentional because they are specifically designed to promote equality of opportunity for particular groups of disadvantaged people;
- d) By amending the policy there are better opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

In favour of none

- a) The policy has no relevance to equality of opportunity or good relations.
- b) The policy is purely technical in nature and will have no bearing in terms of its likely impact on equality of opportunity or good relations for people within the equality and good relations categories.

Taking into account the evidence presented above, consider and comment on the likely impact on equality of opportunity and good relations for those affected by this policy, in any way, for each of the equality and good relations categories, by applying the screening questions given overleaf and indicate the level of impact on the group i.e. minor, major or none.

Screening questions

1. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the Section 75 equality categories?

Please provide details of the likely policy impacts and determine the level of impact for each S75 categories below i.e. either minor, major or none.

Details of the likely policy impacts on Religious belief:

It is not anticipated that the proposed Designation Order will have a differential impact on people of different religious beliefs.

This is a largely technical piece of legislation which will help to ensure the economic viability of a project expected to have some environmental benefits and contribute towards security of electricity supply for the benefit of all. It is not anticipated that the project will lead to an increase in gas bills. It may even have some potential price benefit for gas consumers although there is insufficient clarity on forecasts at this stage to be certain.

What is the level of impact? ~~Minor~~ / ~~Major~~ / None (delete as appropriate)

Details of the likely policy impacts on Political Opinion:

It is not anticipated that the proposed Designation Order will have a differential impact on people of different political opinions.

This is a largely technical piece of legislation which will help to ensure the economic viability of a project expected to have some environmental benefits and contribute towards security of electricity supply for the benefit of all. It is not anticipated that the project will lead to an increase in gas bills. It may even have some potential price benefit for gas consumers although there is insufficient clarity on forecasts at this stage to be certain.

What is the level of impact? ~~Minor~~ / ~~Major~~ / None (delete as appropriate)

Details of the likely policy impacts on Racial Group:

It is not anticipated that the proposed Designation Order will have a differential impact on people from different racial groups.

This is a largely technical piece of legislation which will help to ensure the economic viability of a project expected to have some environmental benefits and contribute towards security of electricity supply for the benefit of all. It is not anticipated that the project will lead to an increase in gas bills. It may even have some potential price benefit for gas consumers although there is insufficient clarity on forecasts at this stage to be certain.

What is the level of impact? ~~Minor~~ / ~~Major~~ / None (delete as appropriate)

Details of the likely policy impacts on Age:

It is not anticipated that the proposed Designation Order will have a differential impact on people of different ages.

This is a largely technical piece of legislation which will help to ensure the economic viability of a project expected to have some environmental benefits and contribute towards security of electricity supply for the benefit of all. It is not anticipated that the project will lead to an increase in gas bills. It may even have some potential price benefit for gas consumers although there is insufficient clarity on forecasts at this stage to be certain.

What is the level of impact? ~~Minor~~ / ~~Major~~ / None (delete as appropriate)

Details of the likely policy impacts on Marital Status:

It is not anticipated that the proposed Designation Order will have a differential impact on people of different marital status.

This is a largely technical piece of legislation which will help to ensure the economic viability of a project expected to have some environmental benefits and contribute towards security of electricity supply for the benefit of all. It is not anticipated that the project will lead to an increase in gas bills. It may even have some potential price benefit for gas consumers although there is insufficient clarity on forecasts at this stage to be certain.

What is the level of impact? ~~Minor~~ / ~~Major~~ / None (delete as appropriate)

Details of the likely policy impacts on Sexual Orientation:

It is not anticipated that the proposed Designation Order will have any differential impact on people according to sexual orientation.

This is a largely technical piece of legislation which will help to ensure the economic viability of a project expected to have some environmental benefits and contribute towards security of electricity supply for the benefit of all. It is not anticipated that the project will lead to an increase in gas bills. It may even have some potential price benefit for gas consumers although there is insufficient clarity on forecasts at this stage to be certain.

What is the level of impact? ~~Minor~~ / ~~Major~~ / None (delete as appropriate)

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Men and Women**:

It is not anticipated that the proposed Designation Order will have any differential impact according to gender identity.

This is a largely technical piece of legislation which will help to ensure the economic viability of a project expected to have some environmental benefits and contribute towards security of electricity supply for the benefit of all. It is not anticipated that the project will lead to an increase in gas bills. It may even have some potential price benefit for gas consumers although there is insufficient clarity on forecasts at this stage to be certain.

What is the level of impact? ~~Minor~~ / ~~Major~~ / None (delete as appropriate)

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Disability**:

It is not anticipated that the proposed Designation Order will have a differential impact on people with disabilities.

This is a largely technical piece of legislation which will help to ensure the economic viability of a project expected to have some environmental benefits and contribute towards security of electricity supply for the benefit of all. It is not anticipated that the project will lead to an increase in gas bills. It may even have some potential price benefit for gas consumers although there is insufficient clarity on forecasts at this stage to be certain.

What is the level of impact? ~~Minor~~ / ~~Major~~ / None (delete as appropriate)

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Dependants**:

It is not anticipated that the proposed Designation Order will have any differential impact on people with or without dependants.

This is a largely technical piece of legislation which will help to ensure the economic viability of a project expected to have some environmental benefits and contribute towards security of electricity supply for the benefit of all. It is not anticipated that the project will lead to an increase in gas bills. It may even have some potential price benefit for gas consumers although there is insufficient clarity on forecasts at this stage to be certain.

What is the level of impact? ~~Minor~~ / Major / None (delete as appropriate)

2. Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories?

Detail opportunities of how this policy could promote equality of opportunity for people within each of the Section 75 Categories below:

The Department has not identified any opportunities for the policy to promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories. This is a largely technical piece of legislation which will help to facilitate EP Kilroot's conversion from coal to natural gas with general environmental benefits.

Religious Belief –

If Yes, provide details:

If No, provide reasons:

Political Opinion –

If Yes, provide details:

If No, provide reasons:

Racial Group –

If Yes, provide details:

If No, provide reasons:

Age –

If Yes, provide details:

If No, provide reasons:

Marital Status –

If Yes, provide details:

If No, provide reasons:

Sexual Orientation –

If Yes, provide details:

If No, provide reasons:

Men and Women generally –

If Yes, provide details:

If No, provide reasons:

Disability –

If Yes, provide details:

If No, provide reasons:

Dependants –

If Yes, provide details:

If No, provide reasons:

3. To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

Please provide details of the likely policy impact and determine the level of impact for each of the categories below i.e. either minor, major or none.

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Religious belief**:

The policy is likely to have no impact on good relations between people of different religious beliefs.

What is the level of impact? **None**

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Political Opinion**:

The policy is likely to have no impact on good relations between people of different political opinions.

What is the level of impact? **None**

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Racial Group**:

The policy is likely to have no impact on good relations between people from different racial groups.

What is the level of impact? **None**

4. Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

Detail opportunities of how this policy could better promote good relations for people within each of the Section 75 Categories below:

The Department has not identified any opportunities for the policy to promote good relations between people in the Section 75 categories below.

Religious Belief –

If Yes, provide details:

If No, provide reasons:

Political Opinion –

If Yes, provide details:

If No, provide reasons

Racial Group –

If Yes, provide details:

If No, provide reasons

Additional considerations

Multiple identity

Generally speaking, people can fall into more than one Section 75 category.

Taking this into consideration, are there any potential impacts of the policy/decision on people with multiple identities?

(For example; disabled minority ethnic people; disabled women; young Protestant men; and young lesbians, gay and bisexual people).

Provide details of data on the impact of the policy on people with multiple identities. Specify relevant Section 75 categories concerned.

This is a largely technical piece of legislation which will help to ensure the financial viability of a project expected to have general environmental benefits for everyone. No differential impacts on people with multiple identities have been identified.

Part 3. Screening decision

If the decision is not to conduct an equality impact assessment, please provide details of the reasons.

If the decision is not to conduct an equality impact assessment the public authority should consider if the policy should be mitigated or an alternative policy be introduced - please provide details.

If the decision is to subject the policy to an equality impact assessment, please provide details of the reasons.

All public authorities' equality schemes must state the authority's arrangements for assessing and consulting on the likely impact of policies adopted or proposed to be adopted by the authority on the promotion of equality of opportunity. The Commission recommends screening and equality impact assessment as the tools to be utilised for such assessments. Further advice on equality impact assessment may be found in a separate Commission publication: Practical Guidance on Equality Impact Assessment.

Response:

The proposed Designation Order will facilitate the conversion of EP Kilroot from a primarily coal-fired power station to natural gas, a less polluting fossil fuel, thus contributing towards lower carbon power generation in NI. The Order is a largely technical piece of legislation which will allow costs associated with the new gas pipeline to be recovered through the regulated common transmission tariff within gas bills in line with existing policy on the development of gas networks in Northern Ireland. It is not anticipated that this will have a noticeable impact on gas bills and it could even have a potential price benefit for gas consumers.

As it is not expected that this policy will have a differential impact on people in any of the Section 75 categories, or that it offers any opportunity to promote good relations, it is not considered necessary to carry out an equality impact assessment.

Mitigation

When the public authority concludes that the likely impact is 'minor' and an equality impact assessment is not to be conducted, the public authority may consider mitigation to lessen the severity of any equality impact, or the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity or good relations.

Can the policy/decision be amended or changed or an alternative policy introduced to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations?

If so, **give the reasons** to support your decision, together with the proposed changes/amendments or alternative policy.

As it is not anticipated that the Designation Order will have a negative or differential impact on people in any of the Section 75 categories, and no opportunities have been identified for promoting greater equality of opportunity, no mitigation is considered necessary.

Timetabling and prioritising

Factors to be considered in timetabling and prioritising policies for equality impact assessment.

If the policy has been '**screened in**' for equality impact assessment, then please answer the following questions to determine its priority for timetabling the equality impact assessment.

On a scale of 1-3, with 1 being the lowest priority and 3 being the highest, assess the policy in terms of its priority for equality impact assessment.

N/A

Priority criterion – Rating (1-3)

Effect on equality of opportunity and good relations -

Social need -

Effect on people's daily lives -

Relevance to a public authority's functions –

Note: The Total Rating Score should be used to prioritise the policy in rank order with other policies screened in for equality impact assessment. This list of priorities will assist the public authority in timetabling. Details of the Public Authority's Equality Impact Assessment Timetable should be included in the quarterly Screening Report.

Is the policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities?

If yes, please provide details.

The policy needs to come into effect before Oct 2022 to coincide with the timetable of works planned at EP Kilroot and to allow for the regulatory and safety checks of the pipe-line to be carried out to an acceptable level by the developers of the pipe-line.

Part 4. Monitoring

Public authorities should consider the guidance contained in the Commission's Monitoring Guidance for Use by Public Authorities (July 2007).

The Commission recommends that where the policy has been amended or an alternative policy introduced, the public authority should monitor more broadly than for adverse impact (See Benefits, P.9-10, paras 2.13 – 2.20 of the Monitoring Guidance).

Effective monitoring will help the public authority identify any future adverse impact arising from the policy which may lead the public authority to conduct an equality impact assessment, as well as help with future planning and policy development.

Implementation of Designation Orders through the common transmission tariff for gas is overseen by the Utility Regulator which has responsibility for regulating the common tariff. Proposed transmission costs are assessed on a five year rolling basis through a price control and the common tariff is reviewed and updated annually.

Part 5 - Approval and authorisation

Screened by: Irene McAllister
Position/Job Title: Gas Policy Branch
Business Area/ Branch: Energy Operations Directorate
Date: 07 June 2022

Approved by: Graham Miller
Position/Job Title: Head of Energy Operations Directorate
Business Area/Branch: DfE Energy Group
Date: 08 June 2022

Note: A copy of the Screening Template, for each policy screened should be 'signed off' and approved by a senior manager responsible for the policy, made easily accessible on the public authority's website as soon as possible following completion and made available on request.