

THE JOINT RADIO COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONALISED POWER INDUSTRIESRADIO SITE CLEARANCE PROCEDURE1 DEFINITION

Radio site clearance is a Government procedure, primarily designed to expose and resolve certain problems, inherent in proposals for new radio stations, in advance of construction.

2 INTRODUCTION

The Radio Regulatory Department (RRD) of the Home Office is obliged to operate the procedure, as far as the civil use of radio is concerned. This entails circulating to other Government Departments, details of proposed radio sites, when these come within specified categories.

Originally, the procedure dealt mainly with technical aspects but it now contributes to the preservation of local environment, by ensuring that consideration is given to the possibility of sharing existing radio sites and masts.

Furthermore, and as a preliminary to the formal site clearance procedure, in the development of a proposal for a radio link system involving two or more new radio sites, the Home Office RRD is required to send an outline, at the earliest possible stage, to one of the following:-

- i the Department of the Environment,
- ii the Scottish Development Department,
- iii the Welsh Office, and
- iv the Northern Ireland Standing Committee on Telecommunications,

having regard to their respective responsibilities concerning amenity matters. The outline has to include detailed site information.

3 TYPES OF SITE TO BE CLEARED3.1 New Sites

All new radio sites EXCEPT those relating to:

- 1 Sites in built-up areas
  - a which will incorporate transmitters using not more than 50 watts ERP and,
  - b aerial systems, the highest point of which is less than 30 metres above ground level.
- 2 Base stations for private mobile radio systems, whether or not in built-up areas
  - a using not more than 25 watts ERP
  - b and with aerial systems, the highest point of which is both less than 30 metres above ground level and less than 300 metres above sea level.

### 3.2 Existing Sites

Existing radio sites must be re-cleared when any of the following apply:

- 1 An increase in the number of masts
- 2 An increase in the height of the aerial systems
- 3 An increase in the RF power
- 4 A significant change in the aerial characteristics (Item 1 (i) Appendix 1 attached refers)
- 5 A change in the type of radio service using the site.

### 3.3 Definition

"Built up" means an assemblage of buildings in an urban area.

"Aerial system" means the aerial and its supporting structure, eg pole, mast or building. The height should include any extensions, such as lightning conductors.

## 4 HOME OFFICE IMPLEMENTATION OF SITE CLEARANCE PROCEDURE

The Home Office circulates requests for site clearance to various Government Departments for their examination, from the point of view of:

- 1 Radio interference
- 2 Flying obstruction
- 3 Ordnance survey marks
- 4 Ancient monuments
- 5 Site sharing possibilities
- 6 Radio frequency radiation hazards:
  - a Danger to health of members of the public,
  - b Risk of accidental detonation of electro-explosive devices (EEDs), and
  - c Risk of ignition of flammable vapours.

The attached APPENDIX 1, lists the information about radio site proposals, which are circulated by the Home Office.

It is possible for a site to be acceptable from the technical point of view but not from an amenity aspect and vice-versa.

From commencement, successful implementation of the procedure normally takes about 8 weeks.

When an application is submitted by the JRC, providing prior information regarding frequency assignments etc, to the Home Office, RRD, they decide whether it comes within the scope of the site clearance procedure and inform the JRC of any such decision.

It should be well understood that any changes to information which has been supplied to the Home Office through the JRC, and which affects site location or engineering details, should be notified without delay to the JRC. Such changes may necessitate re-circulation of the site clearance information to include the amendments, with consequent delays.

In general, private users are not advised of the outcome of their application for a radio service until the procedure is completed. However, in the case of the nationalised power industries, the Home Office has agreed, where appropriate and if requested, to give prior approval in principle to proposals, subject to confirmation that the site clearance procedure has been successfully completed, in order that such engineering planning and ordering of equipment, as is considered prudent at that stage, may be put in hand.

It is important that applicants submit as much technical and site information as possible, at the earliest opportunity, in those cases where the site clearance procedure will be applied.

In the case of proposals for a system of microwave links, and with reference to the prior approval procedure described in SECTION 2 above, it is important to note that the site clearance procedure may operate in two stages. The "prior approval" stage of a microwave system therefore implies preliminary outline approval of site details, and this can only be obtained if the necessary site information is forthcoming initially. Any subsequent amendments to the initial proposals may well require re-circulation to the approving bodies.

The formal site clearance procedure will be invoked only when full engineering details are available to the Home Office.

Unless clearance of the proposed scheme is obtained by the Home Office, a licence for the radio system will not be issued.

In submitting proposals for any scheme requiring site clearance procedure, to the Home Office, as much detailed information as possible, relating to site and technical aspects, will be required.

The user is asked to note the following points:

- a Local planning approval should be obtained as early as possible and details of the planning permission should be available, if requested by the Home Office.
- b The use of existing sites should be fully explored. If not practicable, the reasons should be given on the appropriate BR form.
- c In the case of microwave services where prior approval has been sought initially full technical information must be supplied to enable the Home Office to invoke the formal clearance procedure.

- d Changes of site parameters, however minute in detail, may entail re-implementation of the clearance procedure with possible consequent delays.
- e Attention is drawn to the fact that the site clearance procedure, where applicable, is a pre-requisite to the issuing of a licence.

Any query with regard to this memorandum or the operation of the site clearance procedure should be referred to the:

JRC Secretariat  
The Electricity Council  
30 Millbank  
LONDON  
SW1P 4RD

D24/1/2/THC  
10 September 1980

DETAILS OF RADIO STATIONS REQUIRED FOR SITE CLEARANCE

- 1
  - a Location:  
(giving nearest large town)
  - b National Grid map reference:
  - c Number of masts:
  - d Height in metres at base of aerial system(s) above  
Mean Sea Level:
  - e Height in metres at the highest point of aerial system(s)  
above Mean Sea Level:
  - f Manufacturer of Transmitter: - Type No etc:
  - g Designation of Emission(s)  
(see Article 2 of Radio Regulations)
  - h Radiated RF Power:
    - i Mean power (Pm):
    - ii Mean Effective radiated power (Pme):
    - iii Peak Power (Pp):
    - iv Peak Effective radiated power (Ppe):
  - i Aerials(s):
    - i Aerial dimensions in metres:
    - ii Aerial beam width (between  $\frac{1}{2}$  power ie 3 dB points):
    - iii Type and relative gain:
    - iv Direction of maximum radiation in:
      - a azimuth
      - b elevation:
  - j Frequencies or frequency Bands (kHz, MHz, GHz):
- 2 (To be used to certify that site sharing was not found possible):-

Consideration has been given to existing sites within        kilometres of  
the above proposed locations but none of these is suitable for the  
following reasons:-

For Stations using Frequencies between 30 MHz and 30 GHz

- 3 a "The field strength around this station will nowhere exceed 10 mW/cm<sup>2</sup>".

Alternatively

- b "The operating agency of this station has undertaken to ensure that the current "Safety Precautions Relating to Intense Radio-Frequency Radiation" will be followed and that specifically, members of the public will be excluded from any area around this station where the field strength may exceed 10 mW/cm<sup>2</sup>".