

Our Proposals

Our proposals for an underground gas storage facility which have been submitted to the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) are for the development of up to 19 purpose-built caverns in the salt field at Preesall.

The proposed project is significantly less in scale than previous proposals, being reduced in size and scale by approximately 50 per cent. The reduction in the gas storage capacity has also reduced the number and size of the buildings needed on the surface, as well as the area required to construct and operate the scheme.

We have taken care with the design of above ground buildings so that, where possible, they reflect the rural character of the area and cause limited environmental and visual impact. The plans submitted to the IPC include details of a Landscape and Ecological Management Strategy Plan for the Gas Storage site. This sets out the opportunities for us to improve conditions for native wildlife through a range of measures including making enhancements to ponds and creating new habitats and food supplies through careful planting.



Welcome from
John Roberts

Dr John Roberts CBE
Chairman, Halite Energy

Welcome to the first edition of infocus for 2012 which follows the acceptance of our plans to develop an underground gas storage facility at Preesall by the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) at the end of last year.

This does not mean that the consent has or will be given for the project to go ahead, only that it has moved into the next stage of the IPC process where it will be formally examined.

If you would like to review the application documents you can do so free of charge at the venues listed on page 3. We are also encouraging people who have views on the Project to register their interest with the IPC so that their feedback can be considered by the independent IPC Commissioners during the examination which will take place in the coming months. This will need to be done by 10th February 2012 and you can find out more from the IPC about this on page 2.

Also in this issue you can meet Halite's new director of communications, Nick Taylor, who, since joining the company, has been developing a community investment programme in response to feedback we received during our formal consultation period last spring.

How to register and make a relevant representation

The national infrastructure development consent process is a formal legal process. Examining Authorities appointed by the Chair of the IPC examine accepted applications for development consent to a timetable strictly defined in law, and the main way that evidence is provided during examinations is in writing.

Whilst the developer, defined statutory parties and relevant local authorities are automatically interested parties, other persons, such as local residents, have to make a relevant representation in order to be registered as an interested party. You can register as an interested party in relation to an accepted application for development consent by completing the online 'Registration and Relevant Representation' form. You will find this at the IPC website, on the project page of the proposal you are interested in, once the registration period opens.

It is very important that you complete all the required sections of the registration form in order to register as an interested party. If you register online, the electronic form will automatically navigate you to each of the required sections. You are urged to complete the form online if at all possible, due to the safeguards it has built in, which will help to ensure that you do not submit an incomplete registration.

If you do not have access to the internet, a paper version of the form will be made available via our helpline, 0303 444 5000, but you are asked to take care to ensure that you complete this fully and to post it back to the IPC in good time to ensure it is received before the deadline specified by the developer.

In order to enable the efficient and accurate processing of representations, paper forms can only be made available to named individuals and it is not possible for multiple hard copies to be issued for copying and wider distribution.

You will have at least 28 days in which to register. The dates are advertised by the developer at or close to the proposed site for the project and through a range of local and national media. The IPC also provides notification of the registration deadlines at its website and via Twitter.

The IPC's Registration and Relevant Representation form includes a section for you to make your representation. This should be an outline or summary of the principal submissions you wish to make about the application.

Representations are used by the Examining Authority to help identify the initial principal issues for examination. Therefore, you should ensure that your representation relates specifically to the application and states what you agree and/or disagree with and why.

If you are a local resident you may have specific information about your area which could be of use to the Examining Authority. You do not have to be a technical expert in order to evidence your statements. Just explaining how you consider a project may affect your day-to-day life may be as valuable to the examination as more technical evidence.

It would be helpful if you could limit your representation to 500 words. There will be the opportunity during the examination for you to expand upon the points made in your representation with a more detailed written representation, and there may be the opportunity for you to make an oral representation(s) if any hearings are held during the examination. Greater weight may be given to statements you make in your representation if you can provide reliable and up-to-date information or robust evidence to support them.

Your representation should not be vexatious or frivolous, about compensation for land, land interests or rights over land, or about the merits of policy set out in a national policy statement. If you include any material of this nature your representation may be rejected.

Your representation also may not be valid if your form is incomplete or is received by the IPC after the registration deadline has passed.

How to view our application

Our application to the Infrastructure Planning Commission is made up of a range of documents including reports and drawings.

These documents are available to download free of charge from our website at www.halite-energy.co.uk and inspect free of charge at the locations listed below:

The offices of Halite Energy Group

Mondays to Fridays 9am to 5pm
(call 01772 672244 to arrange an appointment)

Lancashire County Council, Environment and Public Protection Services, Environment Directorate

PO Box 100, County Hall
Preston PR1 0LD

Mondays to Fridays 9am to 5pm (call
01772 531929 or email DevCon@lancashire.gov.uk
to arrange an appointment to view the documents)

Wyre Borough Council

Civic Centre, Breck Road
Poulton-le-Fylde
Lancashire FY6 7PU

Mondays to Thursdays 9am to 5pm
and Fridays 8.30am to 4.30pm

Fleetwood Library

Mondays and Fridays 9.30am to 5pm,
Tuesdays and Thursdays 9.30am to 7pm,
Wednesdays 9.30am to 12.30pm and
Saturdays 9.30am to 4pm

Thornton Library

Mondays and Fridays 9.30am to 5pm,
Tuesdays and Thursdays 9.30am to
7.30pm, Wednesdays closed and
Saturdays 9.30am to 1pm

Knott End Library

Mondays and Fridays 1.30pm to 5pm,
Tuesdays and Thursdays 1.30pm to
7pm, Saturdays 10am to 12pm and
Wednesdays closed

Poulton-le-Fylde Library

Mondays and Fridays 9.30am to 5pm,
Tuesdays and Thursdays 9.30am to
7.30pm, Fridays 9.30am to 5pm and
Saturdays 9.30am to 1pm

They can also be provided on request by emailing community@halite.net or telephoning 01772 672244. Copies of individual documents are available on request. An electronic copy of the full suite of application documents can be obtained for £15 and there is a charge of £1,050 per hard copy set.

You do not have to read all the application documents in order to make your representation – just read those parts of the application you feel are most relevant to the issues you feel strongly about.

We are required by law to make copies of representations available for public inspection, and copying if requested. This means that none of the information provided, including your contact details, can be treated as confidential although details published on our website will be restricted to your name and the text of your representation. A full copy of your representation, including your contact details, will be made available for inspection at public locations. We will remove any personal information about third parties if we think they have not given their consent to including the personal information in the representation.

How to contact the IPC

Visit:

www.independent.gov.uk/infrastructure

Helpline:

0303 444 5000

Email:

ipcenquiries@infrastructure.gsi.gov.uk

IPC, Temple Quay House

Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6NP



Project
team focus **Nick
Taylor**

Halite's communications director, Nick Taylor, joined the team at the end of 2011. Born and raised in the North West, Nick has more than 20 years' experience and is a former director of communications at United Utilities, and head of Public Relations at the Information Technology Services Agency.

Since joining Halite Nick's primary focus has been on developing a community investment programme of activity in response to feedback received during the consultation.

"I have a particular interest in and experience of developing community investment programmes and am enjoying working with the team at Halite who are committed to ensuring that local people benefit from the proposed project."



Nick Taylor
Communications Director

National need

There is a growing recognition that the UK needs more gas storage. We are the world's fifth largest consumer of gas and it is predicted that by 2020 the country could be importing 70% of its gas. The need for more gas storage was highlighted in a recent report by the Government's Energy and Climate Change Select Committee on the UK's Energy Supply which stated that the UK should double its gas storage levels in the next eight years in order to avoid exposure to gas supply interruptions.

Gas storage at Preesall would improve the country's ability to cope with emergencies and seasonal and daily variations in gas demand, highlighted in January 2010 and 2011 when the UK experienced the worst winters on record for three decades.

Visit our website

To find out more about our project plans and view application documents visit the Halite Energy website.

Along with the latest news you'll be able to view all of the application documents including the Consultation Report documenting how the views of the local community have been taken into account by Halite in preparing the final application to the IPC.

www.halite-energy.co.uk



halite
energy group

For more
information

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