



PRESALL UNDERGROUND GAS STORAGE FACILITY, LANCASHIRE

**Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) Application
Reference Number: EN030001**

**STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND BETWEEN HYDER
CONSULTING (UK) LIMITED (ON BEHALF OF HALITE ENERGY
GROUP LIMITED) AND THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY ON THE
TOPIC OF WATER QUALITY, SEA DEFENCES AND FLOOD
RISK**

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 This is a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) between Hyder Consulting (UK) Limited (Hyder) (on behalf of Halite Energy Group Limited) and the Environment Agency on the topic of Water Quality, Sea Defences and Flood Risk.
- 1.1.2 Water quality, sea defences and flood risk have been the subject of discussions between Hyder (on behalf of Halite Energy Group Limited) and the Environment Agency at the pre-Development Consent Order (DCO) Application stage. A telephone conversation was held with Amy Heys and Simon Bennett of the Environment Agency on 14 March 2012 at 9am, and a subsequent telephone conversation was held with Amy Heys, Nicola Beale and Carol Bolt of the Environment Agency on 21 March 2012 at 3.30pm, to discuss the Water Quality, Sea Defences and Flood Risk SoCG. The aim of these discussions was, where possible, to reach a common ground in relation to the following DCO Application Documents:
- Chapter 17: Water Environment of Volume 1A of the Environmental Statement (ES) (DCO Application Document Reference 5.1)
 - Appendix 17.1 (Flood Risk Assessment (FRA)) of Volume 1B of the ES (DCO Application Document Reference 5.2)
 - Figures 17.1 and 17.2 of Volume 2B of the ES (DCO Application Document Reference 5.4)

2 ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

2.1 Accepted Data

Assessment Methodology

- 2.1.1 The methodology sets out the approach to the Water Environment assessment, and is presented within Section 17.3 of Volume 1A of the ES.
- 2.1.2 The assessment methodology is considered appropriate and agreed.

Baseline Information

- 2.1.3 Sections 17.4 and 17.5 of Volume 1A of the ES present the existing and future baseline information, respectively, that has been considered in relation to the Water Environment assessment.
- 2.1.4 The baseline information is considered appropriate and agreed.

Mitigation and Enhancement Measures

- 2.1.5 Mitigation and enhancement measures are identified within Section 17.8 of Volume 1A of the ES.
- 2.1.6 The mitigation and enhancement measures are agreed.

Assessment Findings

- 2.1.7 Section 17.7 of Volume 1A of the ES presents the Potential Effects on the water environment as a result of the Project without consideration of the proposed mitigation and enhancement measures. Section 17.9 of Volume 1A of the ES presents the Residual Effects, i.e. with incorporation of the proposed mitigation and enhancement measures.
- 2.1.8 The findings of the assessment are agreed.

3 FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT

3.1 Accepted Data

Methodology

- 3.1.1 The methodology sets out the approach to the FRA, and is presented within Section 4 of Appendix 17.1 (the FRA) of Volume 1B of the ES.
- 3.1.2 The assessment methodology is considered appropriate and agreed.

Sources of Flooding

- 3.1.3 Section 6 of Appendix 17.1 (the FRA) of Volume 1B of the ES presents the sources of flooding that have been considered within the FRA.
- 3.1.4 The information on the sources of flooding is considered appropriate and agreed.

Coastal Flood Risk Assessment

- 3.1.5 Section 7 of Appendix 17.1 (the FRA) of Volume 1B of the ES presents the coastal flood risk assessment.
- 3.1.6 The findings of the coastal flood risk assessment are agreed.

Development Implications

- 3.1.7 Section 8 of Appendix 17.1 (the FRA) of Volume 1B of the ES presents the development implications.
- 3.1.8 It is agreed that during and after the Project the crest levels of all flood defences within the area must be monitored by the Applicant and if the Project is found to have caused the crest levels to fall significantly then the Applicant would need to repair the defences. A drop in crest level could lead to an increase in flood risk for property and land owners in the area and this would be unacceptable.
- 3.1.9 The Environment Agency recognises that the FRA proposes the monitoring of subsidence that could potentially occur as a result of the Project, and its impact upon existing flood defences, and that DCO Requirement 37-(1) addresses this. At the request of the Environment Agency, the parties are exploring the available mechanisms to place Halite Energy Group Limited under a legal obligation to remedy any subsidence affecting existing flood defences or bear the cost of it. The Environment Agency is now working with Halite Energy Group Limited to come to an acceptable solution on this matter and will keep the Examining Authority informed of progress.
- 3.1.10 The content of Section 8 Development Implications is agreed.

Flood Defence Consent

- 3.1.11 An overview of the requirement for Flood Defence Consent is presented within Section 9 of Appendix 17.1 (the FRA) of Volume 1B of the ES.
- 3.1.12 The content of Section 9 of the FRA in relation to requirements and approach for obtaining flood defence consent for the Project is agreed.

4 DATA NOT ACCEPTED

- 4.1.1 There are no elements of the documents identified within Section 1.1.2 of this SoCG that are not agreed.

STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

This Statement of Common Ground on the topic of Water Quality, Sea Defences and Flood Risk has been prepared by Hyder Consulting (UK) Limited, on behalf of Halite Energy Group Limited, and agreed by the Environment Agency.

Signed:



Lisa Driscoll

on behalf of Hyder Consulting (UK) Limited

Date: 15 May 2012

Signed:



Russell Green

on behalf of Hyder Consulting (UK) Limited

Date: 15 May 2012

Signed:



Amy Heys

on behalf of the Environment Agency

Date: 15.5.2012