



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 MARINE MANAGEMENT
ORGANISATION ON THE TOPIC OF MARINE/ESTUARIAL
ECOLOGY**

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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 Marine Management Organisation (MMO) on the topic of Marine/Estuarial Ecology.
- 1.1.2 The purpose of the SoCG is to set out those matters, within the competence of the MMO in relation to the Development Consent Order (DCO) Application and documents that are agreed between the MMO and Hyder (on behalf of Halite Energy Group Limited). Where relevant, it identifies any matters where there is a difference of opinion. The SoCG therefore enables issues to be narrowed down to assist the Examining Authority.
- 1.1.3 Marine/estuarial ecology has been the subject of discussions between Hyder (on behalf of Halite Energy Group Limited) and the MMO at the pre-DCO Application stage. A telephone conversation was held with Anna Gerring and Laura Calvert of the MMO, and Lara Howe of the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas), acting as technical advisor to the MMO, on 6 March 2012 at 10am to discuss the Ecology SoCG. The aim of this discussion was, where possible, to reach common ground in relation to the following DCO Application Document:
- Chapter 9: Ecology and Nature Conservation of Volume 1A of the Environmental Statement (ES) (DCO Application Document Reference 5.1)
- 1.1.4 The MMO undertook a technical review of Chapter 9: Ecology and Nature Conservation of Volume 1A of the ES to provide comments on marine/estuarial ecology only. This SoCG covers only those matters which relate to the MMO's marine management function. The MMO reserves the right to add to, amend or withdraw comments and seek further agreement should additional information come to light.

2 ACCEPTED DATA

2.1 Assessment Methodology

- 2.1.1 The methodology sets out the approach to the Ecology and Nature Conservation assessment, and is presented within Section 9.3 of Volume 1A of the ES.
- 2.1.2 The assessment methodology is considered appropriate and agreed.

2.2 Baseline Information

- 2.2.1 Sections 9.4 and 9.5 of Volume 1A of the ES present the existing and future baseline information, respectively, that has been considered in relation to the Ecology and Nature Conservation assessment.
- 2.2.2 The baseline information is considered acceptable for the purposes of the ES.
- 2.2.3 It is agreed that updated sublittoral surveys are required by Halite Energy Group Limited prior to the construction of the Project to substantiate the findings of the 2001 survey and to inform the micro-siting of the brine outfall pipeline. It is further recognised that a condition has been included within Schedule 7 of the draft Deemed Marine Licence (DCO Application Document Reference 6.1) to this effect.

2.3 Mitigation and Enhancement Measures

- 2.3.1 Mitigation and enhancement measures are identified within Section 9.8 of Volume 1A of the ES.
- 2.3.2 The mitigation and enhancement measures are agreed.

2.4 Assessment Findings

- 2.4.1 Section 9.7 of Volume 1A of the ES presents the Potential Effects on Ecology and Nature Conservation as a result of the Project without consideration of the proposed mitigation and enhancement measures. Section 9.9 of Volume 1A of the ES presents the Residual Effects, i.e. with incorporation of the proposed mitigation and enhancement measures.
- 2.4.2 The assessment findings are agreed as far as marine receptors are concerned.

3 DATA NOT ACCEPTED

- 3.1.1 With regard to marine/estuarial ecology only, there are no elements of Chapter 9: Ecology and Nature Conservation of Volume 1A of the ES that are not agreed. This is subject to the caveat as outlined in Section 1.1.4 of this SoCG.

STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

This Statement of Common Ground on the topic of Marine/Estuarial Ecology has been prepared by Hyder Consulting (UK) Limited, on behalf of Halite Energy Group Limited, and agreed by the Marine Management Organisation.

Signed: 

David Hoare

on behalf of Hyder Consulting (UK) Limited

Date: 18 May 2012

Signed: Anna Gerring

Anna Gerring

on behalf of the Marine Management Organisation

Date: 18 May 2012

Signed: Laura Calvert

Laura Calvert

on behalf of the Marine Management Organisation

Date: 18 May 2012