30th May, 2012.

Dear Mr. Carpenter,

Ref. No. EN 030001

Proposed Underground Storage Facility at Presslaw Hallfield

Please find enclosed my submission in connection with the above application.

Yours faithfully,

MR. T. CARPEN

THE PLANNING INSPECTORATE,

NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE DIRECTORATE,

2 THE SQUARE,

BRISTOL. BS1 6PN

PINS RECEIVED 1 JUN 2012
Dear Sirs,

Planning Inspectorate Reference No. EN030001
Proposed Underground Gas Storage Facility at Fossnowell field

I wish to object to the above gas storage facility for the following reasons:

1. PUBLIC SAFETY
   a) The proposed site is at the centre of a concentration of residential properties, within 1 mile in all directions of the proposal.
   b) The risk of explosion due to human incompetence, terrorism or ground movement.

2. ECOLOGY
   The proposed caverns would be created by discharging the salt as brine to the Irish Sea and this would affect the seafish and the cooling system of the Heysham Nuclear Power Station.
   Also from the early 1970's until manufacturing ceased, MERCURIC CHLORIDE was disposed of by the ICI into the drained brine wells (when they were prohibited from discharging mercury waste to the Irish Sea). Could there be a possibility that this could find its way to the Irish Sea via this present proposal?

3. GEOLOGY
   There are a considerable number of brine injection wells in the area, some of which are unknown and others which have become unstable if not properly maintained.
   The proposed caverns are to be lined and in the event of ground movement, faults could develop. There was an earthquake measured at 3.7 on the Richter Scale which affected this area on 28th April, 2009.

   The proposed caverns are to be 100 metres in diameter (a side wall length of 314 metres) and 200 metres high and once extraction has taken place they will require maintenance in perpetuity, when gas storage ceases.

   (cont.)
4. TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION

The existing highways are inadequate for a mass evacuation should this become necessary in the event of a gas leak, and gas entering the properties, which would require clearance before residents could return.

Also local roads are not suitable for heavy construction vehicles.

5. INSURANCE

UK insurance companies may decline or considerately increase premiums for property and household insurance.

6. GENERAL

If the scheme is so essential, I would have thought the Government would have asked British Gas/Uniper, or an oil company, to carry out a similar scheme under the Irish Sea or North Sea using existing caverns in former oilfields/gasfields.

I attach a copy of an article which appeared in The Times on 15th June 2005, which shows a scheme for storing carbon dioxide emissions could be carried out for £25 million (2005 prices), and from which it would appear possible to store this gas.

According to Halite Website the cost of this project will be £600 million. We do not know of the financial stability of Halite. It was stated by a representative that they are a successor company to Banter, who had three previous applications refused, and under new ownership. It would appear to me that they are a subsidiary company created by Banter to be more ‘resident friendly’. From press announcements, all the directors, the founding the application are from employees of United Utilities, the chairman of Halite being a former Chief Executive. United Utilities are concerned with water, sewage and electricity and not gas.

If permission is granted and work commenced, and the company failed, who would be responsible for maintenance of the caverns in perpetuity?

When the J&J owned the sites, a full time maintenance team was employed on this work.

The Planning Inspectorate,
National Infrastructure Directorate,
BRISTOL. BS1 6PN
Greenhouse gases may be stored in former oil fields

By Mark Henderson
Science Correspondent

BRITAIN could begin storing a key greenhouse gas in depleted North Sea oil and gas fields within ten years, as part of the Government’s strategy for tackling global warming.

A £25 million plan to develop ways of scrubbing carbon dioxide from the emissions of coal and gas-fired power stations and pumping it beneath the seabed was announced yesterday by Malcolm Wicks, the Energy Minister, to reduce the impact of fossil fuels on the climate.

If the carbon capture schemes prove successful, they could reduce greenhouse emissions from power stations by up to 85 per cent, an independent report commissioned by the Department of Trade and Industry says. That is likely to prove critical to efforts to control climate change as Britain will be reliant on fossil fuels for at least the next half century.

If the Government’s target of reducing greenhouse emissions by 60 per cent by 2050 is to be met, capturing much of the carbon dioxide produced by coal and natural gas will be an essential element of the strategy, Mr Wicks said. Such technologies will also be crucial in developing countries such as China and India where energy use is escalating steeply.

World energy demand is forecast to rise by about 60 per cent by 2030, with fossil fuels meeting 80 per cent of all needs and two thirds of the growth coming from developing countries. China alone is building conventional power stations with a capacity of 30 gigawatts a year, more than half Britain’s total annual electricity output.

Mr Wicks said that the investment would contribute to the national global warming strategy and give British industry opportunities in a new market for carbon capture technology.

"Reaching our ambitious target means action now to support emerging technologies that will enable us to burn coal and gas more cleanly," he said. "At the same time, with major expansion of coal-fired power generation expected in China and India, we want to put Britain at the forefront of a valuable new export opportunity."

Carbon capture will proceed with other measures, including support for renewable electricity generation and increased energy efficiency, Mr Wicks said. He also announced a £15 million investment in hydrogen technology, which has particular potential to cut transport emissions.

Carbon capture, also called sequestration, involves capturing flue gases from power stations through chemical solvents to remove the carbon dioxide. The removed gas is then compressed to liquify it, and sent by pipeline to oil or gas fields. There, it is pumped underground into strata once filled with the fossil fuels. There have been environmental concerns that carbon dioxide stored in this way might not be stable, and might yet be released suddenly into the atmosphere, but most geologists consider that the technique safe and practical.

Norway has been running a pilot sequestration project at the Sleipner field since 1996 in which more than a million tonnes of carbon dioxide have been pumped into empty oil strata in stable and sustainable fashion. The DTI is in discussions with BP about beginning a similar scheme in the Miller field in the North Sea. Officials said that such a project could be up and running by 2015.

Environmental groups welcomed the announcement, though they emphasised that carbon capture schemes could not work in isolation. Bryony Worthington, of Friends of the Earth, said: "Some coal stations are so inefficient and polluting that they should be replaced by a new generation of cleaner plants."

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