National Infrastructure Directorate  
The Planning Inspectorate  
Temple Quay House  
Temple Quay  
Bristol  
BS1 6PN

Application for Underground Gas Storage at Preesall Saltfield

Ann M Moore – Interested Party Reference Number [XXXXX]

Dear Sir

Why, oh why, am I having to write yet again to register my opposition to the application for Preesall Saltfield Underground Gas Storage Scheme? The amount of time, effort and huge expense of public money on opposing this scheme must surely come to an end. The track record of Canatxx / Halite as a company suggests a lack of experience in the design and implementation of gas storage projects. Time and time again the company have been asked to do more investigations to prove that the area is suitable and safe for such a scheme. Has the company done this?

Did Catatxx not come into this area originally to build a power station and when this scheme failed they then decided to go for this gas storage scheme? If we had evidence to show that the Company had come over from America to this country to find suitable sites and, on investigation, had found Preesall to be a really good safe site then perhaps we could have understood the logic. However it would appear that since they were already in the area, had had their power station scheme ‘knocked back’, they then looked for an alternative. They appear to have repeatedly wasted time, effort and money on a scheme in what I am led to believe is an unstable geological area within close proximity to residential areas. Not something which seems a sound proposition!

I have lived in this area over 40 years, brought up my family here and have grandchildren who regularly visit. We knew of the existence of the salt mine workings in the area and have treated them with respect. We know there is ground movement, we have seen collapses and noted the enlarging of depressions, and paths we once walked are now unsafe. All of this time, we were confident in the monitoring work carried out by employees of I.C.I., most of whom were local people who for generations had worked in, and were familiar with, the salt mine workings. We felt safe, but along came Canatxx / Halite again with a scheme which has previously been rejected. Plans submitted which appear to have a plain disregard for the land and it’s geological unsuitability. How thorough are the investigations that the company has carried out? How confident can we
be with the company given the recent incident and the company displaying its best efforts, which left a lot to be desired, in dealing with the situation? Something which reinforces my view of the need to respect the historical salt mine workings in the area, accept the potential fragility of the geology of the area, and leave well alone.

The local residents remain unconvinced by repeated applications – with little changes of plans or evidence to show rigorous investigations of the area. After 10 years, during which time there have been several PR exercises, the strength of feeling from local residents remains the same – over 10,000 letters of objection this time. This demonstrates this strength of feeling and how we all live in fear of the possibility of such a scheme getting the go ahead.

This is not a case of NIMBYISM – Those of us who are not all experts, qualified geologists or engineers do however possess common sense and know that such schemes need to demonstrate that the proposing company has really investigated thoroughly. We have confidence in the wealth of, well documented, evidence which has been submitted in opposition to this scheme.

I remain unconvinced by the track record of Canatxx / Halite, and the apparent disregard shown to the proximity of the proposed scheme to significant areas of population and in, what I am led to believe is, an area of questionable geology. I also remain unconvinced the proposal will be safe, in view of the existence of the historical salt mine workings in the area.

Please say “No” to this scheme once and for all

I would be grateful if you would send me an email to confirm that you have received this letter.

Yours Sincerely

Ann M Moore