Infrastructure Planning Commission
Temple Quay House
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Please ask for: David Thow
Telephone No:
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Date: 13 December 2011

FAO Eleri Davies

Dear Mr Davies

Planning Act 2008 – Section 55 (Acceptance of Application)
Proposed Application for a Development Consent Order for an Underground
Gas Storage Facility at Preesall Saltfield, Lancashire.
Proposal by Halite Energy Group Limited
IPC Reference: EN30001

I refer to your letter of 1 December 2011 regarding the above. The council’s views are as follows:

Duty to Consult (Section 42)

From the information provided, the council is satisfied that the applicant has consulted the appropriate persons in accordance with the provisions of Section 42.

Duty to consult the local community (Section 47)

The applicant met officers from Lancashire County Council (LCC) and Wyre Council at an early stage in the preparation of the Statement of Community Consultation (SOCC) to discuss a draft, and initial, informal comments made were taken into account in the preparation of the draft SOCC which was later published in September 2010. Although Wyre Council were unable to respond to the subsequent formal consultation on the draft SOCC (15 October 2010) within the requisite timescale, comments were made on 6 December 2010. Wyre Council had no particular concerns about the consultation strategy as set out in the SOCC and only minor comments were made. Despite the late submission of comments, the applicant expressed a willingness to accept the comments and take them into account in drafting the final version of the SOCC (April 2011)

Having seen the SOCC Wyre Council is therefore generally happy that the applicant has satisfactorily carried out the consultation in accordance with the SOCC and that
the applicant has taken adequate account of the responses in preparing the scheme for formal submission.

There is however, one minor matter that the council wish to draw to the attention of the IPC and this is set out below.

Since the publication of the SOCC, and throughout the consultation process, officers of the council have attended meetings with officers from LCC and the applicants at various times to discuss various relevant planning matters as part of the ongoing consultation/scheme development process. During the course of such meetings, the council has referred (particularly in terms of noise/vibration, the accuracy of plans, and the design of the sea water pumping station) to the recently commenced and now ongoing residential development at Fleetwood Docks, requiring that it should be taken into account. Whilst the consultation report dated November 2011 does show that the matter of noise in relation to the new residential development has been taken into account, and likewise, relevant plans have been amended accordingly to improve the design of the sea water pumping station and to show this new residential development, it is not clear from the Consultation Report, whether the developers of this site (Redrow Homes and Persimmon Homes) have been contacted/consulted by the applicants, and particularly whether provision has been made with these developers (e.g. by information being available at the sales offices) for new occupiers, purchasers and potential purchasers of properties within the development to be informed of the applicants proposals so that they may contribute to the consultation process and/or take the issues into account in their decision whether to purchase a property on the site. Whilst various consultation activities, e.g. the maildrop, newsletters, the Local Community Liaison Coordinator, may have resulted in some of the longer established residents of the site being aware of the proposals, this may be less so for more recent arrivals and those prospective purchasers who are not presently living on the site. It is considered important that the residents on this site (and prospective residents) be aware of the development as both the sea water pumping station and Fleetwood Fish Dock temporary drilling compound are adjacent to this residential development.

Duty to publicise (section 48)

From the information provided, the council is satisfied that the applicant has served consulted the appropriate persons in accordance with the provisions of Section 42.

In conclusion, the council are satisfied that the consultation process has been appropriately carried out in accordance with the SOCC and would have no objection to the application being accepted by the IPC.

Yours sincerely

David Thow
Head of Planning Services