Mr Tom Carpen  
Infrastructure Planning Commission  
Temple Quay House  
BRISTOL  
BS1 6PN

IPC Reference EN30001 PREE - 00220

Dear Mr Carpen,

Halite Energy Group has produced an information newsletter delivered to the residents of Knott End and Preesall. The contents of this newsletter have alarmed the members of our golf club and we have been inundated by members trying to ascertain if this newsletter indicates that the project is a ‘done deal’.

I have assured our members that the integrity and the impartiality of the Planning Inspectorate is not in question and despite the tone of the newsletter, which technically is factually correct, the position of the Planning Inspectorate is to gather all the relevant facts and make a recommendation to the Secretary of State.

Finally I appreciate that Halite are endeavoring to put the best position possible on this project. A large number of local residents and all members of our Golf Club are opposed to this development. This newsletter is viewed as provocative and certainly has made our communication to our members more difficult. No doubt you will have your own views.

Yours Sincerely

Mr J Barr  
Captain 2012
Project team focus
Andrew Saunders
Hyder Environmental Consultants

Halite's lead environmental consultant, Andrew Saunders, is a technical director at Hyder Consulting, an international advisory and design consultancy which is working with Halite and has carried out a detailed environmental impact assessment for the proposed project.

Andrew has more than 20 years' experience working on over 100 major infrastructure projects including gas, water and electricity projects.

Andrew has been leading the environmental impact assessment and development of management and mitigation plans for our project. The team has included a wide range of specialists across air quality, noise, landscape, ecology and cultural heritage.

He said: "This is a great project to work on as there is a real opportunity to add value and enhance the local environment. We plan to improve conditions for native wildlife by taking measures like enhancing ponds, creating new and improved habitats and food supplies through selection and planting of the right species as outlined in our landscape and ecological management strategy plan."

What happens now?
The Planning Inspectorate process from here

Our project has now entered the Planning Inspectorate's examination phase.

The examining authority has invited people who have registered to have their say to submit their views through written representations.

The Planning Inspectorate will now carefully assess relevant matters, including the representations of all interested parties, any evidence submitted and answers provided to questions set out in writing and explained at hearings.

They will use all the information gathered over the examination period to make their final recommendation about the acceptability of the project to the Secretary of State for the Department of Energy and Climate Change who will make a final decision early next year.

The first hearing regarding the draft development consent order was held on 22 July, with a further meeting to be held on 22 August. The meetings are hosted at the North Euston Hotel, Fleetwood, commencing at 9.30am.

These hearings are open to all, but anyone who wishes to attend should contact the Planning Inspectorate to request a place by emailing presaill@infrastructure.gsi.gov.uk or calling 0303 444 5000.

More details about the timetable are available online at http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk.

Our project finds common ground with key organisations

Since the consultation in 2011 we have been working closely with a number of important organisations to address questions or concerns they may have regarding our proposals.

As a result, we have now successfully come to a mutual agreement with a wide range of local and national bodies which have signed Statements of Common Ground (SOCGs) with us on the project.

Organisations including Lancashire County Council (LCC), Wyre Borough Council (WBC), The Environment Agency, Natural England, the RSPB and the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) have stated that they have no concerns about important elements of our proposals including geology and safety.

This is a vital step as it gives you, members of the public, peace of mind that safety, ecology and public services organisations have carefully considered our proposals and have stated their confidence in many elements of the scheme.

Continued on page two...

Did you know?
The Infrastructure Planning Commission, the independent body which was overseeing our planning application, has now been abolished.

Its work has been taken over by a new National Infrastructure Directorate that has been created within a restructured Planning Inspectorate.

Information about the Planning Inspectorate and all documentation relating to Halite's application can now be found at http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk.

Welcome from
John Roberts
Dr John Roberts CBE - Chairman, Halite Energy

Since the last edition of infocus, our project has taken a number of important steps forward.

Our proposals to develop underground gas storage caverns in Presall have now entered the Planning Inspectorate's six month examination phase. During this period the examining authority will carefully examine our plans, written representations, expert evidence and research before making recommendations to the Secretary of State for the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

We are pleased to say that we have also now successfully reached agreement with a range of government, environmental and health bodies upon some important elements of the project including safety, geology and ecology.

Several important local and national organisations have signed Statements of Common Ground (SOCGs), official documents which state that they do not have any concerns on particular elements of our proposals.

You may also be aware that we have recently made public the details of a study which has shown that, if our plans are given the go-ahead, the development would generate a £650 million investment in the economy and 3,000 jobs at its peak, with an average of 717 per cent of these going to local people.

More details on both the SOCGs and our economic study are covered in this newsletter.

As always we value your feedback. If you have any comments or questions, please do get in touch using the contact details on the reverse.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:
Statutory consultees sign Statements of Common Ground
Jobs for Lancashire: the economic benefits of our project
What happens now? The process from here
Team focus: Andrew Saunders
Our project finds common ground with key organisations

SOCGs are also important because they ensure that as many issues as possible can be agreed by mutual consent between organisations outside of examination hearings so that the examining authority’s valuable time can be saved for addressing the most essential outstanding matters.

One of the most significant breakthroughs is that LCC has said that whilst there remain objections around impact on the landscape and the natural environment, it has no outstanding concerns regarding geology, including the location of the proposed gas storage caverns, the potential impact of any seismic activity or the migration of gas to other areas.

Meanwhile, United Utilities, in their section 42 response of 2011 expressed initial concern about the possibility of gas migrating to other towns and villages. However, discussions held with United Utilities have now discounted this.

United Utilities has now signed a SOCG which states that it has been reassured of the risk of gas escaping from the caverns at Pressalai into the tunnel which carries sewage down the Fylde coast.

The HSE has assessed our plans and found that the safety measures taken with regards to the project are acceptable to them. As a result, the HSE has signed a SOCG on this issue and both LCC and WBC have noted this position.

Several ecological organisations have also signed SOCGs to show their satisfaction with our plans to protect local species – for example the rare and protected pink footed geese – and habitats.

Halite Energy Chief Executive, Keith Badinger, says: “Signing Statements of Common Ground with so many organisations on vital issues such as safety and geology is an enormous step forward for the scheme.

“We hope this will help to reassure the community that the proposed project can be built and operated safely.”

These documents have now been submitted as evidence to the Planning Inspectorate.

For more details on all of the documents submitted as part of our planning application please go to the Planning Inspectorate’s website: http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk.

More than 40 SOCGs have been agreed with national and local organisations which deal with the main issues arising from our proposals.

Here is a snapshot of some of them:

**Safety**

The HSE has assessed our application for Hazardous Substances Consent including the risk assessment submitted and is satisfied that Deemed Hazardous Substance consent can be granted. This means that they have given consent that the requested volume of gas can be stored on the site and that we are able to continue with our planning application.

**Geology**

LCC and WBC have said that they have no outstanding concerns regarding the location of the proposed gas storage caverns, including the potential impact of any seismic activity or the migration of gas to other areas.

**Migration of gas to other areas**

United Utilities has been reassured by Halite that its infrastructure, for example, the Fylde coast sewage tunnel, is not at risk from the project.

**Ecology and the local environment**

The Environment Agency, Natural England, ESRC and Lancashire Wildlife Trust have signed statements to state that they are happy with our plans to protect and preserve the local environment.

The Environment Agency has assessed measures to protect water quality, sea defences and mitigate against flood risk and Halite has pledged to monitor water quality and levels on an ongoing basis.

Natural England and the Marine Management Organisation each also signed a SOCG to say that there would be no adverse affects on local air quality or marine estuarial ecology respectively.

**Health**

NHS North Lancashire has agreed with Halite a number of steps to ensure that any works have minimum impact through noise, dust, vibrations and traffic.

**Noise and vibration**

Halite has come to an agreement with WBC to limit the noise created by any works.
Our project
finds common
ground with key organisations...
continued from page one

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Halcrow Energy Chief Executive, Keith Budgeon, says: 'Signing Statements of Common Ground with so many organisations on vital issues such as safety and geology is an enormous step forward for the scheme. 'We hope this will help to reassure the community that the proposed project can be built and operated safely."

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**Geology**
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**Migration of gas to other areas**
United Utilities has been reassured by Halcyon that its infrastructure, for example, the Fylde coast sewage tunnel, is not at risk from the project.

**Ecology and the local environment**
The Environment Agency, Natural England, HSE and Lancashire Wildlife Trust have all signed statements to state that they are happy with the plans to protect and preserve the local environment.

The Environment Agency has assessed the application to protect water quality, fisheries and the safety of those working on the site. The HSE has also been consulted and no concerns have been raised.

Natural England and the Marine Management Organisation have also signed statements to say that there would be no adverse effects on local air quality or marine natural ecology respectively.

**Health**
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**Noise and vibration**
Halcyon has come to an agreement with WBC to limit the noise caused by any works.

Our proposed project represents a £660 million investment in the local area and, should it go ahead, would provide significant economic benefits to the local and regional economy in addition to the creation of jobs.

Baba Murphy, chief executive of the North & Western Lancashire Chamber of Commerce, is among a growing number of local and regional advocates for the scheme. Welcoming the commissioning of the economic study, she said: "Halcyon's proposal represents a very welcome investment in Lancashire, creating jobs for local people and generating wealth in the local economy. To be able to quantify both the benefits to those who would be directly involved with the construction of the project and those who would indirectly gain from its development is very valuable."

This level of investment would put the project on a similar scale to developments such as the Trafford Centre, the Glasgow M74 extension and the new build Wembley Stadium.

More than 3,000 jobs would be created directly and indirectly at the peak of the project, with an average of 1,260 jobs created during the eight year construction phase. We are committed to ensuring that, at the very least, 17 percent of these jobs go to local people.

Following construction, the facility is planned to operate for at least 40 years and will create 35 operational roles. These jobs are all expected to be sourced from Lancashire and supported by local contracts for maintenance and ongoing work. The report has been compiled by economic development and regeneration consultants, Regeneris.

Chief Executive of Halcyon Energy, Keith Budgeon said: "Halcyon is absolutely committed to ensuring that Lancashire benefits from the project and we will engage with local businesses, schools, colleges, universities and a range of other stakeholders to explore every opportunity to generate jobs locally, invest in the supply chain in Lancashire and utilise the project as an educational resource for young people."

Backed by our project
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