From: Irene Horner
Sent: Monday, October 22, 2012 10:33 AM
To: Preesall Underground Gas Storage
Subject: The Preesall Underground Gas Storage Team
Importance: High

Please see my letter attached. I was told at a meeting in Stalmine re the application by Halite that the 23rd October would be THE very last day to send in any objection letters.

The reason for sending by e-mail is that the letter has been posted today but may not be delivered to you by 23rd.

Please acknowledge receipt.

Regards
Alice Irene Horner

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TO THE PLANNING INSPECTORATE
TEMPLE QUAYS HOUSE
2 THE SQUARE
TEMPLE QUAY
BRISTOL
BSI 6PN

Dear Sirs and Madam,

RE: UNDERGROUND GAS STORAGE AT PREESALL

HALITE APPLICATION

“LESSONS HAVE BEEN LEARNED”

I attended both public meetings on Wednesday and Thursday of this week regarding the application from Halite to store gas under the River Wyre.

I wanted to speak at the Thursday meeting but did not feel confident to air my views in front of the audience but after hearing the representative of Halite speak I came away wishing I had plucked up the courage.

I now hope this letter arrives by Tuesday which we were told was THE latest deadline for objections and also hope that my letter, if arriving in time, will be included in those objections. I am sending it also by e-mail.

I have lived in Thornton for over 30 years and before that in Poulton le Fylde and Blackpool and have, since retiring from the Inland Revenue become involved in many aspects of community life, not least, 5 years as a Police Volunteer.

I am greatly concerned that this application has not had the publicity it merits but having said that there were 11,000 written objections from residents in a wide area of the Fylde. My home was a designated “drop off” for many of these forms and I myself spent hours typing 1100 of them on to spread sheets before being sent onwards to PWG and yourselves.

You might wonder why the heading “Lessons have been Learned”! We hear this phrase all too often these days when details of disasters break; Hillsborough; The shooting of two Police women; Unnatural floods; Banking disasters; etc etc and that phrase is reiterated time and time again at various interviews by public servants and directors of private firms. The frequent use of it in time tends to devalue the sentiments. Highly paid executives who man all of these bodies think that vocal flagellation excuses them from all blame.

I am not an expert in either geology or H & S but hope that I can think and reason with some intelligence and common sense. I cannot comprehend why the LCC advisors, Atkins, have now changed their minds regarding the geology of the area from the report they presented at the first Canatxx inquiry. Surely the geology does not change that much in such a short space of time, indeed I would have thought having lived through the wettest year I can remember that the proposed land would be more unstable now than then.
Regarding H & S, considering there are more and more regulations coming on board, some positively silly, it would appear that Halite, as they did when called Canatxx, are adopting the same cavalier attitude towards the safety of over 80,000 residents within a 3 mile radius of the site. The Site being less than half a mile from a dense population in Fleetwood. I attended the first Canatxx public inquiry and even I couldn't believe how the representatives of that company conducted themselves, putting forward the flimsiest excuse for a planning application that the Government Inspector, Mr Simpson, was forced to ask them to go away and produce more specific and detailed information. Now it appears that the Halite executives are doing the same. I attended the public meetings where Halite presented its proposal and remember most clearly Mr Budinger (Chief Exec) saying that no guarantee could be given that an accident would not happen. Indeed, at one presentation that took place in the Thornton Little Theatre room I spoke to him personally, asking him to confirm this, which he did. I complimented him on his honesty but find it amazing that with such a large project of this nature there is no guarantee put forward. I am aware of course that we are all at risk at some times in our life, things beyond our control but am astonished that these applications continue to be accepted in such a highly populated area.

This is why I felt I had to write now at the last minute with my plea that you refuse this application, as we, in the Fylde, do not want to become the latest “LESSONS HAVE BEEN LEARNED” disaster.

Sincerely,

Mrs Alice Irene Horner