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To all Interested Parties

Our Ref: EN030001

Date: 23 August 2012

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Dear Sir/Madam

**Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008) and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010**  
**Application for a proposed Underground Gas Storage Facility at Preesall Saltfield, Lancashire**  
**Planning Inspectorate Reference Number: EN030001**

Further to my letter of 2 May 2012 setting out the timetable and procedure for the examination of this application, I am writing to advise you of the programme for issue specific hearings. In reaching a decision about holding such hearings, the Panel has had regard to the written representations submitted to date and the discussion about this matter at the preliminary meeting held on 24 April 2012.

The Panel has decided that the following hearings are necessary in order to ensure that specific issues are adequately examined:

**Tuesday 18 September 2012:** drafting aspects of the draft Development Consent Order and requirements, the draft deemed Marine Licence and the proposed s106 agreement between the Applicant and other parties (as proposed in my letter of 27 July 2012). At this hearing, we will be considering the revised draft DCO we requested the Applicant submit to us by 31 August 2012.

The organisations invited to attend are:

- The Applicant
- Lancashire County Council
- Wyre Borough Council
- Marine Management Organisation
- Environment Agency
- Natural England
- Protect Wyre Group

**Wednesday 19 September 2012:** the relationship between the provisions proposed to be granted by the Order and the subsequent detailed approvals to be obtained from the competent authority (HSE and the Environment Agency) within the COMAH Regulations

1999 as amended 2005, and any further amendments likely to be required as a consequence of Directive 2012/18/EU.

Having considered the Applicant's response to question 1/7 of the first written questions (document ref H1), the Panel particularly wishes to explore the mechanics of how the Applicant intends to develop the detailed design of the proposed caverns within the framework of the powers proposed to be granted by the Order and the limitations imposed by requirement 6 on the one hand, and the expectations and experience of the HSE and EA in handling these subsequent details on the other, including the preparation of the Pre-Construction Safety Report and the Pre-Operational Safety Report. Whilst the statement of common ground between the Applicant and the HSE (SoCG 8) deals with the application for a deemed Hazardous Substance Consent, it does not cover the arrangements between the Applicant and the competent authority in carrying forward detailed design through what is a separate regime, and it is this process that the Panel wishes to discuss with the parties at this hearing.

The organisations invited to attend are:

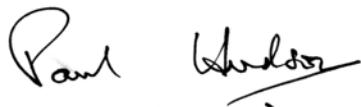
- The Applicant
- Lancashire County Council
- Wyre Borough Council
- Health and Safety Executive
- Environment Agency
- Protect Wyre Group

We do not expect formal presentation of evidence at the hearing, nor do we intend that the hearing will be conducted by cross examination. We will put questions to the representatives of parties attending, designed to ensure that we have as full an understanding as possible of the matters we wish to discuss. To that end, we hope the parties will make available for questioning the most appropriate staff and others who can most assist the Panel.

Both hearings will be held at the North Euston Hotel Fleetwood commencing at 10 a.m. and of course are open to any Interested Party to attend either as an observer or to make oral representations about the issue, subject to the Panel's control over the conduct of the hearing. I would remind you, however, should you decide to speak then any representations that you make should be restricted solely to the specific issue of the hearing, should be based on representations previously made in writing, should not repeat the representations already made in any form, and that at the Panel's discretion you may be questioned on your contribution.

| Should you wish to attend a hearing and to speak at it, it would be helpful if you advise the PINS case team at the address at the top of this letter of your intentions as soon as possible, and in any event not less than one week before the scheduled date for the hearing.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Hudson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underlining the name.

Paul Hudson  
Lead Member of the Panel of Inspectors

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Advice may be given about applying for an order granting development consent or making representations about an application (or a proposed application). This communication does not however constitute legal advice upon which you can rely and you should obtain your own legal advice and professional advice as required.

A record of the advice which is provided will be recorded on the Planning Inspectorate website together with the name of the person or organisation who asked for the advice. The privacy of any other personal information will be protected in accordance with our Information Charter which you should view before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.