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To all Interested Parties

Our Ref: EN030001

Date: 31 August 2012

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 open floor and compulsory acquisition hearings. The Panel invited interested parties to make requests for open floor hearings and affected persons to make requests for compulsory acquisition hearings by 24 August 2012.

The Panel has had regard to requests made and the discussion about this matter at the preliminary meeting held on 24 April 2012, and has decided to hold the following hearings:

Compulsory Acquisition Hearing

Compulsory acquisition hearings take place at the request of anyone whose interest in land or rights over land are proposed to be compulsorily acquired. Only these 'affected persons' and the Applicant have the right to request and be heard at a compulsory acquisition hearing. The hearing will be held in public, however, and others are welcome to attend.

The Panel have decided to hold the following compulsory acquisition hearing:

- Tuesday 9 October 2012
9:30 registration for a 10:00 start
At the North Euston Hotel, The Esplanade Fleetwood, Lancashire FY7 6BN
- Wednesday 10 October 2012
9:30 registration for a 10:00 start
At the North Euston Hotel, The Esplanade Fleetwood, Lancashire FY7 6BN

The Panel will provide an agenda and running order in advance, and if all matters are concluded on 9 October then the session on 10 October will be cancelled.

Open Floor Hearing

At these sessions, any person or organisation who is an interested party can give oral evidence to the Panel on any topic of concern to them, based on their relevant or written representation. Anyone else may be permitted to speak at the discretion of the Panel. The Panel will not set the agenda for these sessions, but we will organise the timetable of those wishing to speak in the light of preferences expressed about attendance at particular sessions. We intend to hold six sessions over two days as follows:

- Wednesday 17 October 2012
Session 1: 9:30 registration for 10:00 start
Session 2: 14:00 registration for 14:30 start
Session 3: 19:00 registration for 19:30 start
At a venue to be confirmed on the western side of the Wyre estuary
- Thursday 18 October 2012
Session 4: 9:30 registration for 10:00 start
Session 5: 14:00 registration for 14:30 start
Session 6: 19:00 registration for 19:30 start
At a venue to be confirmed on the eastern side of the Wyre estuary

Each open floor hearing session is anticipated to last approximately 2 hours; all participants should be present for the beginning of the session they are invited to attend and each particular session will close when discussion is concluded.

Should you wish to attend an open floor hearing session 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, (i.e which session on which day) as soon as possible and in any event by 10 October at the latest.

Participation will be subject to the Panel's control over the hearing. The Panel do not intend that the hearing will be conducted by cross examination. The Panel may put questions to parties attending, designed to ensure that we have as full an understanding as possible of the matters being presented to us.

Site Visit

The Panel have also decided to hold a further site visit on 19 October. Because this will require entering into private land, the Panel will be accompanied on this visit by representatives of the Applicant and the local authorities. The Panel have visited the site before, so this visit may not cover all parts of the proposed development.

Yours faithfully

Paul Hudson

Paul Hudson
Lead Member of the Panel of Inspectors

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.