

The Planning Inspectorate
3/18 Eagle Wing
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol,
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F.A.O Tom Carpen
Principal Case Manager
Date 17-09-12

Reference 4284298
Your Reference EN030001

Dear Sirs,

I manage a team of operational inspectors in the Gas and Pipelines Unit, part of the Hazardous Installations Directorate in HSE. The Gas and Pipelines Unit regulates major hazards safety in the gas import, gas storage, gas processing and gas transmission and distribution industries throughout the United Kingdom. Most of the businesses we regulate are multi-national oil and gas companies. A significant amount of our regulation is under the major hazards legislation, the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 1999 (COMAH).

My team is responsible for regulating major hazards safety, under COMAH, at Halite Energy Group Ltd's, proposed gas storage development at Preesall, Lancashire. My team has considerable experience examining COMAH safety reports and inspecting COMAH installations, including at proposed and existing underground salt cavity gas storage sites, examples being EDF at Warmingham; Storengy at Stublach; National Grid Gas plc at Holford; Holford Gas Storage Ltd; SSE Hornsea, East Yorkshire; Seal Sands at Teesside.

I very much regret I cannot field staff, including myself, to attend the issue specific hearing on 19 September 2012. I am aware of the importance of the meeting and ideally would have liked to field HSE representatives to attend to explain our role and answer any questions that you or interested parties may have. However, the notice given of the meeting is too short for me to be able to field the right persons to attend and I do not want to offer other staff to attend who are not best placed to explain our role specific to regulating major hazards safety at underground gas storage sites and to respond effectively to any questions arising on the day.

I have therefore attached a written submission, which I hope provides adequate comment on the points in your agenda. The submission includes some PDF files containing additional guidance. I realise this is not ideal and if your organisation or interested parties have questions that arise on the 19th, I am more than happy to answer those questions in writing or if necessary in person at a future date. If you have specific questions for HSE in advance of Wednesday's meeting, that are not addressed in the enclosed written submission please do not hesitate to contact my colleague Alan Meyer at alan.meyer@hse.gsi.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully



Giles Hyder
HM Principal Inspector of Health and Safety

HIDS13C

Hazardous Installations Directorate

Giles Hyder

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