Dear Sir/Madam,

Statement of matters with respect to further written representations (pursuant to rule 20(2) of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010)

PREESALL UNDERGROUND GAS STORAGE FACILITY

Following the Order of the High Court (Patterson J) made on 17 January 2014 quashing the decision of the Secretary of State dated 9 April 2013 to refuse the application by Halite Energy Group Limited (“the Applicant”) for development consent for the proposed underground gas storage facility including associated development in Preesall, Lancashire (“the Development”), the Secretary of State must now re-determine that application.

I am therefore writing in accordance with Rule 20(2) of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 to set out to you, as an interested party to the above application, the matters in relation to which the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change considers further representations are needed for the purposes of his re-determination of the application. These are:

i) further geological information to demonstrate the Applicant’s case that the anticipated total storage capacity of up to 900 million cubic meters and working storage capacity of up to 600 million cubic metres at standard temperature and pressure in the area for cavern development (shown on development plan A-1000-030 Rev B)\(^1\) can be achieved;

ii) the extent to which the Development is consistent with National Policy Statement for Gas Supply Infrastructure and Gas and Oil Pipelines (EN-

iii) whether, if the Secretary of State decides on redetermination to grant development consent for the Development, he should do so subject to the terms of requirement 6 of the draft development consent order as recommended by the Examining Authority in its report of 21 January 2013 (see Appendix to this letter).

iv) the adequacy of the environmental information produced in support of the application for the Development and whether further or updated environmental information is now necessary; and

v) any other matters arising since 9 April 2013 which interested parties consider are material to the Secretary of State’s re-determination of the application.

Any representations you wish to make in respect of these matters should be sent in writing to the Secretary of State by no later than Friday 9 May 2014. Kindly direct any representations to:

National Infrastructure Consents Team
Department of Energy and Climate Change
2nd Floor Kings Buildings
3 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2AW

E-mail Address: deccnic@decc.gsi.gov.uk

It is the intention of the Secretary of State to appoint an independent Geological Assessor to advise him on geological matters and to produce a Geological Report.

All representations received along with other relevant information, including the Geological Report, will be made available for inspection on the National Infrastructure Planning Portal at:


3 The Applicant’s Environmental Statement (APP17-APP21) and all other Examination documents are available at Appendix C of the Panel’s Report to the Secretary of State:
An opportunity to comment on the representations received and other relevant information, including the Geological Report, will be given to interested parties. The Secretary of State will then consider all representations received and also whether any further consultation is necessary before determining the application.

Yours faithfully,

Giles Scott

Giles Scott
Head of National Infrastructure Consents
Appendix - Requirement 6 as set out within the draft development consent order appended to the Examining Authority’s report of 21 January 2013

“Details of operational cavern layout and design

6.—(1) No stage of the authorised development shall commence until:

(a) a geological survey of the “area for cavern development” shown on the approved development plan with reference A-1000-030 Rev B has been carried out to confirm the top and bottom levels of the Preesall halite deposit and the presence of any faulting to a confidence limit of ± 5 metres;

(b) the working capacity of Work No 1A has been calculated taking account of the results of the geological survey and sub-paragraph 4 (a) to (h) of this requirement; and

(c) the results of the geological survey and the working capacity calculation have been submitted to and agreed by Lancashire County Council.

(2) No authorised development shall be carried out if the working capacity of Work No 1A as agreed by Lancashire County Council pursuant to sub-paragraph 1 (c) is less than 300 million standard cubic metres at the standard temperature and pressure.

(3) No more than 19 operational caverns, with a total storage capacity of up to 900 million standard cubic metres and working capacity of up to 600 million standard cubic metres, both specified at the standard temperature and pressure, shall be constructed within the “area for cavern development” shown on the approved development plan with reference A-1000-030 Rev B.

(4) Unless the safety reports (to be submitted pursuant to Regulations 7(1), 7(5) and 8 of the 1999 Regulations), following communication of the competent authority’s conclusions of its examination of those reports pursuant to Regulation 17 of the 1999 Regulations (and directions if any), allow otherwise—

(a) in this paragraph, where an operational cavern is not of a constant radius, reference to the radius of that operational cavern shall mean the largest radius for that operational cavern; and the maximum radius of any operational cavern shall not exceed approximately 50 metres;

(b) the thickness of the remaining salt between the operational cavern roof and the upper surface of the Preesall halite deposit shall be not less than the radius of each operational cavern;

(c) a minimum thickness of 20% of the radius of the operational cavern shall be
maintained between the deepest point of the operational cavern and the basal
surface of the Preesall halite deposit;

(d) wall to wall separation of proposed operational caverns, operational caverns,
proposed decommissioned caverns or decommissioned caverns of equal
diameter shall be no less than three times the radius of the proposed operational
caverns, operational caverns, proposed decommissioned caverns or
decommissioned caverns; wall to wall separation of proposed operational
caverns, operational caverns, proposed decommissioned caverns or
decommissioned caverns of unequal diameter shall be no less than the sum of
one and a half times the radius of the smaller proposed operational cavern,
operational cavern, proposed decommissioned cavern or decommissioned
cavern plus one and a half times the radius of the larger proposed operational
cavern, operational cavern, proposed decommissioned cavern or
decommissioned cavern;

(e) the minimum distance between any operational cavern and the Burn Naze
fault or any intra-grabinal fault shall be no less than three times the radius of that
operational cavern;

(f) the minimum distance between any operational cavern and any existing brine
cavern or existing mineworking shall be no less than four times the radius of that
operational cavern (save that where the size of an existing brine cavern is not
known the minimum separation distance between an operational cavern and the
well head of that existing brine cavern shall be five times the radius of that
operational cavern);

(g) the minimum distance between any operational cavern and any exploratory
borehole drilled into the Preesall halite deposit shall be no less than twice the
radius of that operational cavern;

(h) the minimum distance between any operational cavern and wet rockhead
areas shall be four times the radius of that operational cavern.”