Dear Ms Frances

Thank you for your email of 25 May.

Following the Order of the High Court made on 17 January 2014 quashing the decision of the Secretary of State [taken on behalf of the Secretary of State by the then Energy Minister, Greg Barker] dated 9 April 2013 to refuse the application by Halite Energy Limited for development consent for the proposed underground gas storage facility in Preesall, Lancashire, the application must now be redetermined.

Decision-making on applications for consent for nationally significant energy infrastructure falls within the portfolio of Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth. Amber Rudd will not therefore be taking this decision.

Your representation in respect of the possible impacts of the proposed development will be taken into account during the decision-making process.

Yours sincerely,

DECC Correspondence Unit
Department of Energy & Climate Change | 3 Whitehall Place | London SW1A 2AW
Replies to: correspondence@decc.gsi.gov.uk
Follow us on Twitter.com/DECCgovuk
Given that a spokesperson for your department declined to explain who would be taking this decision in your place, I would like to ask what process will be followed for making the determination. In a democracy it is right that citizens know what processes are being followed, especially when it concerns major decisions like gas storage.

The great majority of people in the areas surrounding the proposed development have been clear in their opposition to the plans for many years. I share the safety concerns of local MP, Cat Smith, urge you to come clean about the decision making process and ultimately for your department to turn down Halite’s plans.

Yours sincerely,

Annie Frances

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