Dear Ms Conley,

Thank you for your further e-mail message below on Halite Energy Group’s proposed Preesall Underground Gas Storage Facility, which the DECC Correspondence Unit has passed to me for reply.

You will appreciate that I am unable to comment on the merits of the application, but can confirm that all representations received are being forwarded to the Planning Inspectorate and will be published on its Infrastructure Planning Portal http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/projects/north-west/preesall-saltfield-underground-gas-storage/ in due course. All representations received and other relevant information will also be taken into account in the Secretary of State’s decision on the application.

Finally, you have asked in the event that the application is refused, whether a further application could be submitted. You will appreciate it would be a matter for the Developer to decide if it wanted to pursue another gas storage project, but a further application could be made under the Planning Act 2008. The following link sets out the application process that would need to be followed http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/application-process/the-process/ under the 2008 Act and also how interested parties can participate in the process.

Yours sincerely,

Rob Pridham
Case Manager, National Infrastructure Consents
3rd Floor Area B
3 Whitehall Place
London SW1A 2AW
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From: shazza [redacted]
Sent: 29 May 2015 16:31
To: Correspondence (DECC)
Subject: RE: Lancashire gas storage application

My concern is also that this application has been altered repeatedly after being rejected. The group change their name and constantly seem to be flouting rules and the Government has had numerous enquiries at a huge cost and this has resulted in the rejections. I wonder why this keeps rumbling on when its proven to be dangerous and that the Company constantly seems to be skirting safety issues as well as environment problems as well as local concerns.
When your Dept has made this decision and if it gets rejected, again, will they be allowed to put in another application. My concern is also that they have so much money and can keep this up and we as locals will get worn down even though its not in the areas interest. Is there every
going to be an end as we get the impression they will keep on pushing the project forward.
Sharon Conley

Message Received: May 29 2015, 03:40 PM
From: "Correspondence (DECC)"
To: "sharon conley"
Cc;
Subject: RE: Lancashire gas storage application

Dear Sharon Conley,

Thank you for your email of 27 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
correspondence@decc.gsi.gov.uk

From: sharon conley [redacted]
Sent: 27 May 2015 18:37
To: Correspondence (DECC)
Subject: Lancashire gas storage application

Dear Ms Rudd,
I urge you to come clean over the decision-making process concerning the underground gas storage facility proposed by Halite Energy Group in Lancashire. The application, after more than a decade of legal wrangling, is currently being considered by your department, where it had previously been understood that the Secretary of State would determine the outcome. It has now been reported in the media that you will not be involved in the decision.

Following the recent news report (Independent on Sunday, 24th May, 2015) that Halite is represented by the lobbying company headed by your brother, Roland Rudd, I would like to seek clarification that you will not be involved in the decision.

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,

sharon conley

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