



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

10 April 2014

Preesall Underground Gas Storage Application – EN030001

Dear Sir or Madam

Please be informed that I re-iterate my opposition to the proposal to store gas in the salt at Preesall.

Let us not forget, the SOLE purpose of the application is so that Halite [an offshore company] can make a profit from gas storage. It will not reduce the price of gas nor contribute significantly to long term gas supplies - yet will certainly blight the Fylde to the detriment of many.

Having looked at much of the documentation, I see that the supporters of the application are those who, for business reasons, see an opportunity to profit from the proposed development. Their motive is simply “to HOPE to make a buck or two” out of the any development – a very shallow reason indeed. Despite Halite’s improved PR, they still show little concern for the “silent majority” who will suffer harm – financial and other – from such a development.

After 10 years of failed applications by Halite [Canataxx], I still see no evidence that they have shown their proposals to be safe and wonder how long it will be before they claim “violation of their collective Human Rights” by having an application refused AGAIN. Perhaps they should pay the costs of their repeated applications – rather this being borne indirectly by the local residents.

Much of the previous history of the salt field is still not known to Halite and the recent brine well incident shows they are unable to react adequately to any unforeseen event related to the salt field – nor are they able to predict future events. Their spurious allegation of sabotage of the brine well shows how readily straws are grasped - to try to confuse an issue or make political capital from it. I think the Americans call this “passing the buck”.

Their seismic and other data is still inadequate and no legal challenge is going to make it better. Nor is any “desk study” where re-interpretation – “to make the data look better” – actually going to make any difference to the inadequacy of their submission. Their application is still not fit for purpose, and the secretary of State’s last refusal made this clear.

However, in the last year, some things have changed and these will need to be re-considered by Halite:

- The local road network has deteriorated and any increase in HGV traffic is going to impact on many local road users. Will Halite pay for any additional damage incurred as a result of increased road traffic – I think not. It will be local people who foot the bill by incurring various additional costs.
- The climate is changing and this will need to be considered as part of any application process – with higher temperatures, more extreme rainfall, rougher seas and other weather extremes. There must be added risks associated with gas storage – if only from the impact of local flooding near existing brine wells and the new ones proposed. Is the wet rock head becoming further saturated and how will this impact on the salt beds, failing bore holes and collapsing brine caverns?
- There is also the likelihood that gas extraction via Fracking will be considered nearby and gas cavern security may be compromised as a result. For example, is it possible that local fracking will impact on cavern stability by initiating “unforeseen seismic events” or interference with the ground water in the district. Who knows? – certainly Halite does not - nor do they seem to care!

Let us refuse this application and look towards more sustainable energy sources – such as tidal or wave energy - that will have much less environmental impact in the long term and will give additional benefits for local residents and businesses.

Yours faithfully



A K Beniston