



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

### **PREESALL UNDERGROUND GAS STORAGE FACILITY**

Dear Sir/Madam

As a registered interested party and in response to your invitation to submit further written representations (following the Order of the High Court (Patterson J) quashing the decision of the Secretary of State dated 9 April 2013 to refuse the application by Halite Energy Group Ltd for development consent for the above project) please find below an update on matters arising since 9 April 2013 which I consider material to the Secretary of State's re-determination of the application.

Being well placed as editor of a local community magazine in the area of the proposed development my letter of objection, as an interested party, sent to the Planning Inspectorate on 2 June 2012 centred on the effect the fear and apprehension the proposed development has had on our local community for a great number of years. Following the Secretary of State's decision last year to reject the project a palpable sense of relief swept through the area, and the subsequent initial refusal by the High Court to allow Halite grounds to appeal against refusal reinforced this.

This sense of relief has however once again been replaced by a sense of fear, uncertainty and disbelief, coupled with cynicism of a system that allows continued appeal and repeat planning applications of a very similar scheme. The applications have been rejected over a period of 12 years by local town and parish councils, regionally (Wyre Council), at county (Lancs County Council), and twice at government level (Sec of State Hazel Blears following a Public Inquiry under the previous Labour Government and last year's decision by the current Coalition Sec of State).

The Planning Inspectorate has stated that it received for the latest application, ". . . just under 200 relevant and written representations concerning the proposal. This is not a large number compared with other controversial development proposals, but needs to be seen in the context of three previous planning applications for similar UGS proposals in the area and the coordination role performed by the Protect Wyre Group (PWG)."

Written representation and interested party status can be seen as a difficult and complicated procedure, linking objections to the specifics in a technical application not an easy task which probably accounts for the low figure, but an incredible 10, 800 people did support PWG in the fight against underground gas storage and the pro forma response allowed for individual comment. As a

member of the team logging these responses I include a representative sample of them below. They come from all ages and all walks of life and cover many issues; they deserve to be heard.

As it falls once again to the Secretary of State to determine this application we are all waiting and hoping to see the final curtain in this long running saga.

Yours sincerely

Marilyn Mulroy (Mrs)

## **Appendix**

A representative sample of objections to underground gas storage listed on spreadsheet MM1 (submitted to National Infrastructure Directorate)

MM1 – 1 When ICI owned the land in the 1960s the Agglebys Farm was demolished and an area was cordoned off as likely to collapse. In the spring of 1965 the subsidence happened a field away from the cordoned area. Throughout 1964 a farmer used a tractor on that field. Living across the road I and my children had also been in that field. Even ICI did not know the stability of the area. Any future disturbances could destabilise the storage spaces.

MM1 – 2 It's very stressful the worry of being blown up in bed.

MM1 – 3 I would like peace of mind and be able to carry on riding my bike in safety down the lovely countryside we are still lucky to have round here.

MM1 – 5 Ruin the dreams of a quiet idyllic last few years of hundreds of pensioners Over Wyre.

MM1 -8 3 failed planning applications coupled with a failed Public Inquiry should say the answer to gas storage is 'NO'. 'Bin' this latest application so that we, as residents, can return to the peaceful life we once knew.

MM1 - 13 I want to feel safe when I grow up. I am [REDACTED] years old.

MM1 – 14 Changing the name of the company does not remove any of the problems.

MM1 – 16 As a volunteer countryside ranger I spend a great deal of time leading walks in the Over Wyre area and talking to local people. This scary project must be scrapped.

MM1 - 17 I am already stunned at the amount of damage to the area by "preliminary activities". Public footpath signs thrown aside – shameful. This is an important area for wildlife & marine birds. This is a small country, too small for such a large scale development. The area too highly populated.

MM1 -18 Please may the wisdom of the Planning Inspectorate keep our green and pleasant land as God intended it to be.

MM1 -22 I lost close friends in the Abbeystead disaster in 1984. This scheme in this geology would pose vastly greater potential for a cataclysmic disaster than pertained in the Abbeystead incident.

MM1 -26 With an approved scheme offshore I see no reason to put people and property at risk.

MM1 -31 The Planning Dept at Lancs CC were refusing planning permission due to the geology being unsuitable. Nothing has changed in the 3 years since I worked there so the more expensive option out in the Bay still stands up as the preferred solution.

MM - 37 The pipeline has been designated to run through my fields, some of which need draining. However I cannot sanction the work until either the pipeline is finished or I know that it won't be built. This has gone on too long.

Mm1 -42 We say no but that is probably too simple a word for them to understand.

MM1 -43 My grandfather worked on the Brine wells for 35 years and when I was a small child he told me none of that land was safe, it would all end up as water and I would see it in my lifetime.

MM1 -49 I would not choose to move to an area where such a scheme was already in operation.

MM1 - 50 Will someone listen to common sense?

MM1 - 51 Words fail me.

MM1 - 52 Why are there no laws to stop this lot continually putting in applications? It needs sorting now.

MM1 -55 I object to anyone trying to store gas in a colander.

MM1 - 71 There are fault lines under Preesall travelling under 2 schools in the area - this is too dangerous a scheme to allow to go ahead.

MM1 -74 I am ■ years old & feel it's very wrong that my life and many other aged people should be put at risk.

MM1 - 75 The original objections still stand and should be taken on board by those in a position to speak up for local people.

MM1 -80 I worry about the loss of wildlife and our children's future.

MM1 -81 The damage done to every living thing.

MM1 -85 This scheme is complete and utter folly.

MM – 88 Surely we should have the right as English people to say what goes under our feet and in OUR land.

MM1 -89 With fracking operations being carried out just a few miles away, which has already caused concern, any underground movements causing splitting to the caverns could be catastrophic.

MM1 -91 Pack all your gear up and go back to where you belong and leave us all in our safe environment, as quick as you can.

MM1 -98 Concerned about the effects on my children, grandchildren & great grandchildren. This is not a legacy I would want for them.

MM1 -109 Final Answer - NO

MM1 -147 As a mother I want to protect my children.

MM1 -160 – Lives and safety of people before PROFIT.

MM1 - 161 Having read reports of accidents caused by gas storage in America, it will be a disaster waiting to happen. We have to think of the next generation. It is a definite NO NO. I am [REDACTED] but quite prepared to join a protest on the site.

MM1 167 As a retired mining engineer I know the geology of this area is unsuitable for the storage of gas at very high pressure.

MM1 -174 I have lived in the area of the proposed site for 71 years and remember how unstable the land is.

MM1 -179 At present I rent a property in the area. I would like to buy a property, However the outcome of this application will influence my decision. I'm sure there will be others like me.

MM1 -193 Combined with "fracking" an accident waiting to happen.

MM1 -201 Madness v common sense only one answer – no.

MM1 -229 This isn't just about us, it concerns future generations.

MM1 -232 I remember the Abbeystead disaster when we were told and assured it was very safe, but many people lost their lives in the explosion. St Michaels has never recovered fully. We do not wish this to happen to Fleetwood or anywhere else across the Fylde Coast.

MM1 -235 I farmed over 100 acres at Staynall for 30 years and was unable even to build a slurry lagoon due entirely to the instability of the land with moving wet sand at the depth of between 7 and 9 feet. There were also 5 springs from underground sources.

MM1 -238 Chameleon company calling itself Halite energy.

MM1 -239 Prior to my retirement I worked at the Fleetwood Dock office as commercial manager/deputy to Port Manager. I am very much aware of erosion etc which can arise from effect to the flow of the river.

MM1 -247 As a recently retired Over Wyre GP I am also particularly concerned regarding the physical and emotional effects on the health of 11,000 patients, many of them being elderly.

MM1 -248 We are relying on planning to act on our behalf and protect our lives, homes and environment.

MM1 -251 To the planning Inspectorate - Please may the gas storage plan fail and common sense prevail for once and all.

MM1 -284 This government should show to all that they have an interest in public safety which is paramount and more valid than the vested interests of finance and industry.

MM1 - 290 Strongly object to proposal as I have a baby and feel we would need to consider moving from the area.

MM1 - 304 Leave us in peace - this is our future and the future of our future that you are playing with.

MM1 -306 The rule should be - 3 refusals and you're out!

MM1 - 340 Do you really think changing the name of the company will fool anybody?

MM1 -344 Please listen to objections, saltfields are for salt not gas.

Ends