

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

7<sup>th</sup> May 2014

Dear Sir,

**PREESALL UNDERGROUND GAS STORAGE FACILITY**

**“LESSONS HAVE BEEN LEARNED”**

You might wonder why the heading “Lessons have been Learned”! We hear this phrase all too often these days when details of disasters break; Hillsborough; The shooting of two Police women; Unnatural floods; Banking disasters; etc etc and that phrase is reiterated time and time again at various interviews by public servants and directors of private firms. The frequent use of it in time tends to devalue the sentiments. Highly paid executives at the head of these organisations think that vocal flagellation exempts them from all blame.

I am not an expert in either geology or H & S but hope that I can think and reason with some intelligence and common sense. I cannot comprehend why public monies need to be spent on another geological expert when various reports have been presented since the first Canatxx inquiry. Surely the geology does not change that much in such a short space of time. Indeed, I would have thought having lived through some of the wettest years I can remember that the proposed land would now be more unstable than then.

Regarding H & S, considering there are more and more regulations coming on board, some positively silly, it would appear that Halite, as they did when called Canatxx, are adopting the same cavalier attitude towards the safety of over 80,000 residents within half a mile of the proposed caverns. I attended the first Canatxx public inquiry and even I couldn't believe how the representatives of that company conducted themselves, putting forward the flimsiest excuse for a planning application that the Government Inspector, Mr Simpson, was forced to ask them to go away and produce more specific and detailed information. Now it appears that the Halite executives are doing the same. I attended the public meetings where Halite presented its proposal and remember most clearly Mr Budinger (Chief Exec) saying that no guarantee could be given that an accident would not happen. Indeed, at another presentation that took place in Thornton I spoke to him personally, asking him to confirm this, which he did. I find it amazing that with such a large project of this nature there is no guarantee put forward. I am aware of course that we are all at risk at some times in our life, things beyond our control but am astonished that these applications continue to be accepted in such a highly populated area.

This is why I felt I had to write to ask that you once again refuse this application, as we, in the Fylde, do not want to become the latest ***“LESSONS HAVE BEEN LEARNED”*** disaster.

Sincerely

Mrs. Irene Horner

