

**From:** Michael [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 07 May 2014 15:54  
**To:** National Infrastructure Consents  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** PREESALL UNDERGROUND GAS STORAGE FACILITY

National Infrastructure Consents Team,  
Department of Energy and Climate Change,  
2nd. Floor Kings Buildings,  
3, Whitehall Place,  
London.  
SW1A 2AW

Dear Sir,

**PREESALL UNDERGROUND GAS STORAGE FACILITY**

Further to your letter of the 8th. April, 2014 I comment as follows:-

- 1) The salt deposits where it is proposed to store 650,000 tonnes of natural gas have been subject to salt extraction (both by dissolving the salt and by physical mining). Detailed records of these works do not exist. Given this it can never be beyond doubt that the proposed caverns are safely located and gas 'migration' must be a possibility.
  - 2) It is understood that the Applicant has recently carried out seismic testing in the area of Knott End golf course. Apparently the results of these tests have not been made public. If the Applicant wishes to use the information obtained it should not be permitted at this stage in this application.
  - 3) It would seem that due consideration has not been given to the evacuation of the area either side of the River Wyre should there be an incident such as a major gas escape. There are some 80,000 people residing within three miles of the proposed storage facility. Organising an evacuation of such a population whilst allowing access to emergency services would be impossible within a reasonable time scale. In this context it should be noted that:-
    - a) the local Constabulary will confirm that a major road accident on the A588 or the A585 can result in a 'log jam' lasting for some hours.
    - b) in some States in the U.S.A. no major residential areas are allowed within three miles of an underground gas storage facility.
  - 4) In 2011 Hydraulic Fracturing almost certainly caused two earthquakes in the Blackpool area. The earthquakes were small. However, their effect on caverns in salt deposits in which natural gas is stored at high pressure cannot be predicted.
- In summary there are unquantifiable risks in storing large quantities of natural gas at high pressure in caverns relatively close to the surface. There are other locations in the British Isles where planning permission has been granted for the storage of gas. A number of these are offshore, well away from centres of population. Given this why grant permission for a scheme where an incident could affect 80,000 people?

Yours faithfully,

Michael L. Tucker

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