

The Rt Hon Edward Davey MP,
Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change,
c/o National Infrastructure Consents Team,
Department for Energy and Climate Change,
2nd Floor Kings Buildings,
3 Whitehall Place,
London,
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Alf Clempson
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Date: 7th May 2014

Sent by email: deccnic@decc.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Secretary of State,

Preesall Underground Gas Storage Facility: re-determination
Applicant: Halite Energy Limited

I have no doubt that the Protect Wyre Group and Ben Wallace MP amongst others; will go into great detail once again about these proposals and why they can't go ahead. Could I please urge you to take note of everything they say because they have been fighting plans to store gas under the River Wyre for many years. I however would like to concentrate on what I call the human side. I feel that I am qualified to do this having attended every meeting and presentation Halite/Canatxx has hosted for the last six years including question and answer sessions and the open floor presentations during the appeal etc. I have also spoken with hundreds of residents with regards to Gas Storage.

Firstly, I would like to inform you of my real disappointment that yet again despite two Secretary of States saying no, Lancashire County Council saying NO, every local MP being against it, the local authority and Parish and Town Councils being against it and the vast majority of residents being opposed, here we are making the case against Gas Storage under the River Wyre again.

I feel that as a local elected County Councillor for a Town which is situated close to the banks of the River Wyre, it is important for me to relay to you the disbelief and disappointment that people feel locally that this saga is still rumbling on, and to be frank their dismay that they find themselves in this situation. What I find particularly worrying is the perception that despite everyone from Parish Councillors to MPs being against these proposals, many residents believe that it is only a matter of time before this speculative company get their own way. To this end, many have a feeling of being totally let down by authority.

I am very concerned about the real fear residents have with regards to this application. They are afraid because many of them have lived in this area for many years and know too well the instability of the area and of the geology of the salt caverns. They are afraid because despite attempting to prove that this area is suitable for gas storage, this company have still not proved it, despite trying for years. No one should be asked to live in fear and this is exactly what Halite/Canatxx are asking local residents to do. It would be different if they had carried out extensive tests and proved that the area was safe but for what ever reason, they have not or can not and for this reason alone gas storage cannot be allowed in this area.

All of the concerns I referred to in my first letter are still relevant and could I please ask that they are taken into account. The fact is because Halite/Canatxx have not proved beyond reasonable doubt

that gas storage is safe, many residents live in fear of this development and I would argue that this is not an acceptable situation for people to live in.

Please take my concerns into account when making your decision.

Yours sincerely,

Alf Clempson
County Councillor for Poulton-le-Fylde