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30th May 2014

The Department of Energy & Climate Change
FAO: Mr Giles Scott

By email – giles.scott@decc.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Mr. Scott,

Halite Energy Group's proposed Underground Gas Storage facility at Preesall

I am writing as a member of the Civil Engineering Contractors Association (CECA NW), that comprises both local SMEs and multinational contractors, in support of Halite's proposed underground gas storage facility at Preesall, Lancashire.

I recently met the Halite Energy management team with regard to its plans for gas storage in Lancashire. We had a very useful meeting by gaining intelligence on what would be expected from NW civil engineering contractors working for Halite should this project go ahead.

I understand that more than 2,000 jobs would be created directly and indirectly at the peak of the project and an average of 850 jobs will be created during the eight-year construction phase. Having worked on the two recently constructed underground gas storage schemes at Halford and Stublach in Cheshire we are only too well aware of the vital boost to civil engineering works that the Preesall scheme could provide in the NW region.

In addition to the contribution Preesall makes toward UK Energy Policy and Security, Preesall offers a number of significant benefits by being in the North West. Gas from Preesall can enter the National Transmission System (NTS) at a location where there is spare capacity and can be directed down a number of pipelines. It is also close to a number of gas fired generation plants, which will be increasingly important in the provision of electricity and provide flexibility for gas suppliers.

There is no doubt in my mind a development of this scale would have to draw upon the skills and products of a large range of contractors in the North West through the supply chain.

I would like to assist Halite in its efforts to obtain a Development Consent Order (DCO) by asking the Secretary of State to grant consent.

Yours sincerely



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