



ERIC WRIGHT
CONSTRUCTION

File Reference: JHW/SG
Direct Dial: 01772 694668
E-mail Address: johnw@ericwright.co.uk
Date: 12 June 2014

Mr Giles Scott
Head, National Infrastructure Consents
Department of Energy and Climate Change
3 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2AW

Dear Mr Scott,

Underground Gas Storage facility – Preesall Lancashire

I am writing, as a Managing Director of the Eric Wright Group in support of Halite Energy Group's Underground gas storage facility at Preesall, which I understand is currently being examined by you for planning permission.

Eric Wright is an established leader within the building industry. We offer a wide range of services from construction and civil engineering, to property development and facilities management. We, like several other firms in the North West will benefit one way or the other if Preesall goes ahead.

From the research undertaken there is clearly a need for flexible gas storage capacity in the UK, which is the world's seventh largest gas market. The facts are there has been a dramatic decline of UK Continental Shelf (UKCS) gas production from a year 2000 peak of 100 bcm to 50 bcm in 2013. The UK significantly lags behind other countries with respect to gas storage capacity, with its current storage capacity of less than five per cent of annual consumption compared to approximately 15 percent from other industrialised economies. I believe we have 14 days of gas storage.

Investment in new UK storage such as Preesall is required to ensure security of supply and to provide the flexibility required as a result of UKCS decline and the Government's renewable energy policy.

For Lancashire, Halite's project would generate demand for a wide range of skills and occupations. Halite is committed to buying in certain types of activity during the construction phase that will create business opportunities for firms such as Eric Wright.

We know local firms in the building and construction industry could secure a large proportion of these opportunities, borne out by the experiences at other gas storage facilities such as Holford in Cheshire where a large portion of the work was awarded to businesses from within Cheshire, Warrington and Greater Manchester.

Eric Wright Construction Ltd

Sceptre House . Sceptre Way . Bamber Bridge . Preston PR5 6AW

Tel: 01772 698822 . **Fax:** 01772 628811 . **www.ericwright.co.uk**

Registered in England No. 190204



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



ERIC WRIGHT
CONSTRUCTION

Lancashire has strengths across a range of sectors but particular concentrations of businesses in engineering and building construction. A £600m injection of private capital is substantial. I would respectfully ask that DECC and the Secretary of State grant this project consent as it is 'shovel ready' to go.

Yours sincerely,



John H. Wilson
Managing Director
ERIC WRIGHT CONSTRUCTION LTD

Eric Wright Construction Ltd

Sceptre House . Sceptre Way . Bamber Bridge . Preston PR5 6AW

Tel: 01772 698822 . **Fax:** 01772 628811 . **www.ericwright.co.uk**

Registered in England No. 190204



constructionline
AN ASSOCIATED COMPANY OF ERIC WRIGHT



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE