

Mr Giles Scott  
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16<sup>th</sup> June 2014

Dear Mr. Scott

## **RE: Preesall Gas Storage Underground Gas Storage Application**

I was fortunate to attend a presentation last week, delivered at the East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce by Keith Budinger, the Chief Executive of Halite. I understand that the Department of Energy & Climate Change (DECC) is currently re-examining Halite's application for a new gas storage project in Preesall, Lancashire.

Mr Budinger outlined the many benefits of the Halite proposal, set against the context of our very limited gas storage and vulnerability to gas outages. Not only could a loss of supply prove catastrophic to our economy and to society generally, but these risks and uncertainties leave customers prone to erratic price fluctuations. A precedent for such a situation has already been set, when in early 2013 the UK supply was reduced to just 6 hours following a combination of negative events.

Having reviewed the details and potential for the Halite project, JCK wishes to endorse it, and asks that the Secretary of State give it his approval. This £600m scheme will provide a much needed investment into the North West economy since Halite is committed to sourcing from a regional supply chain, and hence will contribute towards business development, jobs, skills and economic growth. As a young and expanding Lancashire company, we specialise in Building Services and project management. A development of this scale represents a significant opportunity for us, and for our own local suppliers, partners, staff and other stakeholders, and generates further optimism for a new renaissance in this area, which has always been at the heart of industrial innovation and achievement.

In light of all the above, we formally ask that you please give Preesall serious consideration and approval to help secure sustainability and success for our region.

Yours sincerely,

**Catherine Pickup**  
Company Secretary



ISO 9001  
ISO 14001  
OHSAS 18001



Certificate Number 10901