

3rd July 2014



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

Dear Mr. Scott

Preesall Saltfield Underground Natural Gas Storage - Planning for new gas infrastructure

The Institution of Gas Engineers & Managers, IGEM, is a chartered professional body, licensed by the Engineering Council, serving a wide range of professionals working across the gas industry, in the UK and internationally, through membership, events and a comprehensive set of technical standards.

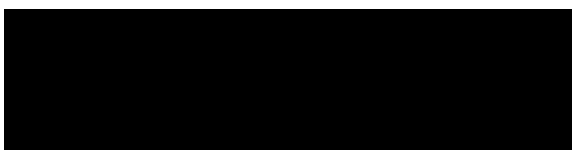
As the Chief Executive Officer for the IGEM, I am writing to lend our commitment and support for the Preesall Saltfield Underground Natural Gas Storage project being developed by the Halite Energy Group.

The need for more natural gas storage was recognized in October 2011 by the Energy and Climate Change (EEC) Select Committee in their report on the UK's Energy Supply published on 25th October 2011. The Committee said that: "[DECC] should aim to double the UK's current gas storage levels by 2020... to ensure a resilient gas supply". It also recognized that the Government should develop a strategy for increasing gas storage, warning that: "doing nothing could result in no storage being built, which would diminish energy security".

The IGEM has been supporting the natural gas industry since 1863. In your DECC National Policy Statement for Gas Supply Infrastructure and Gas and Oil Pipelines (EN-4) you state "The efficient import, storage and transmission of natural gas and oil products is crucial to meeting our energy needs during the transition to a low carbon economy".

We have become increasingly more reliant on natural gas imports due to the continuing decline in domestic production from the UK Continental Shelf (UKCS). Natural gas storage is vital as it secures the UK's energy supplies during demand peaks. Preesall is a new natural gas storage infrastructure project that will improve the UK's security of supply by boosting current natural gas storage capacity by 20 per cent, or three days. I believe that this project supports UK government policy and provides a practical solution to meeting our energy needs and ensuring a resilient gas supply.

I respectfully ask that DECC and the Secretary of State support this nationally significant infrastructure application and redetermine Halite's project in its favour and grant a Development Consent Order.



Sarb Bajwa
Chief Executive Officer