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Dear Mr. Scott,

### **Underground Gas Storage Facility in Preesall, Lancashire**

I understand that your department is currently assessing the planning permission application for the above project from the Halite Energy Group. Source One Environmental Ltd, the company for which I work, is a supporter of the above project.

Source One Environmental Ltd is part of the Fernco Group, which is recognised as the world's leading manufacturer of flexible couplings, with offices worldwide. In the UK, we are the primary distributor of Ultracoat, a hard-wearing, chemically-resistant epoxy coating system, which is being considered for use within the Preesall Project due to its unique properties.

We believe that large construction projects such as Preesall represent a great opportunity for ourselves and other suppliers, offering a boost to the local economy in the North West. The Preesall construction plan, with a £600m budget, represents significant investment for the UK and local economy, exactly the type of monies needed in Lancashire, and will move that local economy away from its current over-reliance on public sector employment.

Further to the economic benefits of the project is the contribution it can make to surety of gas supply for the country. We understand that currently there is a meagre 14 days of gas storage nationally, much of which is seasonal and which cannot respond quickly. The Preesall Project will quickly add 3 days to this total, via its onshore salt cavity storage.

Looking to the future, gas supply surety will only increase in importance. Within the next 15 years, a huge amount of coal & nuclear generation is coming offline. It is likely that gas-fired power stations will fill the gap left by the retiring coal plants. Further growth in renewable energy, particularly wind farms, means we will need more natural gas to fire up power stations when the wind does not blow. The Preesall Project can be a vital element in energy production in the years to come.

It seems like common sense to us that this project should go ahead for the benefit of the country. The Department of Energy & Climate Change should carefully assess Preesall and fully understand how its approval would greatly improve the UK's security of gas & electricity supply, as well as assist the local economy.

Yours sincerely

Tony Leyland

Group Managing Director

