

Our Ref: ND/LCB/DECC210714

21st July 2014

Mr Giles Scott
Head, National Infrastructure Consents
Department of Energy and Climate Change
3 Whitehall Place
London SW1A 2AW
By post & email: giles.scott@decc.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Mr Scott

Preesall Saltfield Underground Gas Storage by Halite Energy Group Ltd

Finning (UK) Ltd is the UK division of Finning International Inc. is contacting you to express our support for the gas storage planning application in Preesall in Lancashire.

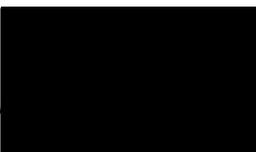
We are one of the world's largest distributors of Caterpillar plant, complementary equipment and power systems. Headquartered in Vancouver, Canada, and listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange, Finning has bases in the UK and Ireland (both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland), Canada and South America (Chile, Argentina, Bolivia and Uruguay). In the UK there are two main Finning business areas; Finning Construction Equipment and Finning Power Systems, where we employ over 1,600 people.

Finning (UK) has seen a proposed Preesall construction plan in which there are significant opportunities for a firm of our size to contribute. A total capital outlay of £600m for building the gas storage facility is considerable for the North West, where unemployment still remains high at around 7.5 percent. We want to take a closer inspection of Halite's plans. Investments into the UK on critical infrastructure projects such as this continue to remain a UK Government's pathway to growth.

Whilst the UK Government remains committed to the decarbonisation of power generation in the long term coupled with an increase in renewables, there will continue to be strong demand for gas. The inevitable supply troughs in offshore wind, combined with the inflexibility of nuclear supply will mean an ongoing need for natural gas infrastructure such as gas storage to provide essential capacity for electricity generation. We are seeing this trend globally and with it an opportunity to efficiently deploy our resources and equipment.

Noting the above, we would respectfully ask that DECC and the Secretary of State approve the Halite project.

Yours sincerely



Neil Dickinson
Managing Director
FINNING (UK) LTD