

Mitchell's Scaffolding Ltd.

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

30th July 2014

Dear Mr. Scott

New energy infrastructure for Lancashire – Preesall Underground Gas Storage

Mitchell's Scaffolding Ltd is writing to you to express our support for the gas storage project in Lancashire being developed by the Halite Energy Group. We understand DECC is currently deciding whether to give planning permission or not.

Mitchell's has been one of the leading scaffolding contractor for local government and the public sector for many years. Since inception in 2003, we have developed into a market leading scaffolding company. All of our processes and procedures comply with the latest British Standard Regulations TG20:08, SG4: 10, Health and Safety at Work act 1974 and the Construction Regulation 1995. All our scaffolders CISRS Certified, CITB trained and all hold current CSCS cards.

Safety first and foremost is at the heart of everything that Halite undertake, given Halite would design, build and operate its project in line with stringent guidelines, they have already been sourcing local company's with the required levels of knowledge who are capable of meeting the exacting health and safety requirements. They have utilized this knowledge to further raise the standards and called on these companies at the earliest opportunity to ensure that we are able to assist Halite in the full preparation for this project.

We have been watching this project with keen interest, through the new planning system. We understand the UK currently has approximately 14 days of gas storage, this amount of storage could leave the country as a whole very vulnerable should the supply network be halted and is also very very low when compared to our European neighbours France (87 days), Germany (69) and Italy (59).

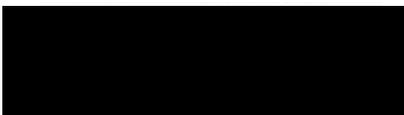
Our increasing reliance on gas imports and the continuing decline in the UK's domestic production along with the lack of storage facilities, this increasing demand leave the whole of the UK exposed to the volatility of international gas prices and our vulnerability to external shocks to the gas network, diminishing energy security. We feel that much needed Investment in Preesall's new infrastructure will improve our security of supply; this facility alone I understand would add three days of gas storage.

Locally here in the North West, a development such as Preesall would draw upon the skills and services of a large range of contractors, such as Mitchell's and too, create new jobs in the area. Halite has given a commitment to source locally wherever possible, and to use the safest and most responsible approaches to transport, materials, construction and design. This would benefit the whole of the construction industry for the initial project and the local if not national economy, way into the future.

All in all, this project if approved would have a major economic impact on, not only the local area it would also see benefits to the wider community for generations to come.

The case for awarding planning permission is very clear cut to us. Without hesitation we would back the approval of this project.

Yours sincerely



Stuart Mitchell
Managing Director