

Mr. Giles Scott  
Department of Energy & Climate Change  
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Sent by email to: [giles.scott@decc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:giles.scott@decc.gsi.gov.uk)

20<sup>th</sup> August 2014

Dear Mr. Scott,

***Halite Energy Group's Underground Gas Storage Facility at Preesall***

I am writing to support the Halite Energy Group's underground gas storage facility at Preesall and to request the Secretary of State to grant a Development Consent Order to approve the project.

I have worked in the UK gas industry for more than 30 years in various senior operational and technical roles. I spent many years working specifically in the gas storage sphere. I now provide consultancy services to the industry.

It is clear to me that Projects such as Preesall are key to the UK's future energy supply mix. They are required both to protect the UK's security of supply, and to ensure that the UK remains competitive through access to affordable energy.

The UK continental shelf (UKCS) production is in decline and imports have been rising to meet demand. By 2025 the UK will rely on imports for 75 percent of its gas. Gas storage will be needed as part of the supply mix to provide additional price security at times of high world prices, allow for flexible shaping of gas between summer and winter thus maximizing cheaper gas sources and to protect the UK against Geo-political risks which are outside of the its' control

The depletion of North Sea fields has resulted in a reduction in the sources of flexible gas available at short notice to the UK market and gives rise to the need for new storage options such as Preesall. Imported gas sources are by their nature inflexible and lack seasonality. High cycle short notice facilities are also increasingly important in supporting renewable energy in particular offshore wind. Given the intermittent nature of wind, flexible gas fired power generation will be required to produce electricity when there is no wind.

Preesall has many advantages over competing projects from both a performance and capital cost basis. It is located close to the National Transmission System, has availability of electricity supply

and water washing infrastructure and has salt strata which lends itself to high cycle short notice operation.

In the last year more than 10 BCM of storage projects have been cancelled or put on permanent hold. It is simply not the case that should Preesall not be approved that there are multiple alternative projects which can take its place. Furthermore projects like Preesall take considerable time to be built and brought on line; action is needed now to ensure the UK has sufficient storage for the future.

Yours sincerely,

*Signed as original by G Sibbick*

Glenn Sibbick

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Mobile