



3/18 Eagle Wing
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol, BS1 6PN

Customer Services: 0303 444 5000
e-mail: KeuperGSP@pins.gsi.gov.uk

Your Ref:

To interested parties and statutory parties

Our Ref: EN030002

Date: 23 March 2016

Dear Sir/Madam

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) – Section 89 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rule 8 (as amended)

Application by Keuper Gas Storage Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Keuper Gas Storage Project

Examination timetable and procedure

I write to tell you about the procedural decisions following the Preliminary Meeting held on Wednesday 16 March 2016 at the Best Western Crewe Arms Hotel, Nantwich Road, Crewe, Cheshire. This letter also provides you with the examination timetable, a link to the initial questions that I am asking in the examination and other matters.

Annex A sets out arrangements for the availability of representations and application documents. All documentation associated with this project, including a note of the Preliminary Meeting and the audio recording taken at that meeting can be found using this link:

<http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/North%20West/Keuper-Gas-Storage-Project/>

Procedural decisions

I have made my procedural decisions about the way in which the application is to be examined. The examination timetable is attached as **Annex B** and includes the deadlines by which certain information should be submitted.

Please note that in finalising the examination timetable I have sought to accommodate requests made at the Preliminary Meeting and as a result there are some changes in the timetable.

If I consider it necessary to vary the timetable as set out in **Annex B**, I will notify interested parties (numerical reference numbers starting with 10032, or reference numbers beginning with KGSP-AFP or KGSP-S57) and any other persons invited to the Preliminary Meeting and publish the changes on the Keuper Gas project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website.

Deadlines for receipt of submissions

It is important to note that if you do not submit the information by the dates specified in the timetable, I may disregard them.

Any submissions that exceed 1500 words should also be accompanied by a summary which should not exceed 10% of the original text. The summary should set out the key facts of the written representation and must be representative of the submission made.

All deadlines are 11.59pm on the date stated. I request that interested parties send, where practicable, electronic copies of their submissions as email attachments, to KeuperGSP@pins.gsi.gov.uk on or before the applicable deadline. Electronic attachments should be clearly labelled with subject title and not exceed 12MB for each email. Should electronic submissions include documents of 300 pages or more, interested parties are advised to send to the Planning Inspectorate two additional full paper copies of their submission by post. Providing links to websites where your submissions can be viewed is not acceptable. All documents, once accepted into the examination by myself as the ExA, must be able to be viewed in full on our website. Timely submissions in advance of the deadlines set in the timetable are encouraged. If interested parties prefer to issue submissions in hard copy by post, please ensure they arrive by the deadline.

If no written requests are received for open floor hearings or compulsory acquisition hearings by the deadline of **Wednesday 13 April 2016** as specified in **Annex B**, I am not required to hold any such hearings. I may nevertheless choose to do so.

The time, date and place of any confirmed hearing will be notified in writing to all interested parties, providing at least 21 days' notice.

I explain below some of the submissions requested in the timetable in greater detail for your information; however, please refer to Annex B for all submission deadlines for this application.

Examining Authority's First Round of Written Questions

I have decided to ask a number of written questions. These questions are now published on the National Infrastructure Planning website and can be accessed through the following link:

<http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/document/3782258>

The deadline for responses to these questions is **Friday 29 April 2016** as listed in the examination timetable in **Annex B**.

Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) and Local Impact Reports (LIRs)

I now formally invite the submission of completed SoCGs by the same deadline of **Friday 29 April 2016**.

Local authorities defined in s56A of the PA 2008 are also invited to submit LIRs by the deadline of **Friday 29 April 2016**.

Written representations

I also invite all interested parties, and particularly the applicant, to submit comments on relevant representations already submitted by the deadline of **Friday 29 April 2016**.

Written representations from all interested parties are invited by the deadline of **Friday 29 April 2016**. There is no prescribed form for written representations. Written representations can deal with any relevant matter. They are not restricted to the matters set out in my initial assessment of issues which was discussed at the Preliminary Meeting, nor restricted to the questions I have asked. Please note that under Rule 10(4) of the Examination Procedure Rules, any person other than the applicant who submits a written representation must identify in their written representation those parts of the proposal with which they agree and those parts with which they do not agree, and must state the reasons for such disagreement.

Furthermore, in accordance with DCLG '[Planning Act 2008 \(PA 2008\): Guidance for the examination of applications for development consent for nationally significant infrastructure projects \(April 2013\)](#)', participants should provide 'the data, methodology and assumptions used to support their submissions' with their written statements.

Notification of a wish to attend a hearing

I now request notifications by **Wednesday 13 April 2016**:

- (a) of any interested party who wishes to be heard at an **open floor hearing**;
- (b) of any affected person who wishes to make oral representations at a **compulsory acquisition hearing**;
- (c) of any interested party who wishes to make oral representations at the **issue specific hearing** on the second draft Development Consent Order to be held on **Wednesday 25 and Thursday 26 May 2106**.

If an interested party wishes to make an oral representation at an open floor or issue specific hearing they should indicate which topics they wish to address at the hearing. Similarly, any affected person wishing to make an oral representation at a compulsory acquisition hearing should identify clearly the plots of land about which they wish to speak.

Agendas for each hearing will be published on the project page of our website at least seven calendar days before the hearing is due to take place but will not otherwise be

published or circulated. The actual agenda on the day of each hearing may be subject to change at the discretion of the ExA.

Procedure at hearings and notification of wish to speak at hearings

The procedure to be followed at hearings is set out in Rule 14 of the [Examination Procedure Rules](#). Any oral representations must be based on either the relevant or written representations made by the person by whom or on whose behalf the oral representations are made. I am responsible for the oral questioning of a person giving evidence, but your attention is drawn to Rule 14(5) of the Rules and the circumstances that apply to cross-questioning between parties.

My examination will be principally undertaken through a written process, and I will decide whether a hearing on a particular issue or topic is necessary. This decision is not connected to how relevant or important I consider an issue or topic to be.

Site inspections

As I indicated at the Preliminary Meeting I have undertaken an unaccompanied site inspection.

An accompanied site inspection has been fixed for **Tuesday 24 May 2016** and any requests from interested parties for me to inspect particular locations or items must be received by **Wednesday 13 April 2016**.

At the Preliminary Meeting the applicant stated that they had drawn up a draft itinerary for the accompanied site visit. A copy of this has been provided electronically to the ExA and a copy of it can be found in **Annex C** of this letter. I now invite you to make comments on this draft itinerary by **Wednesday 13 April 2016**.

Please note that the site inspection is not an opportunity to make any oral representations on the proposal. However, I may invite participants to indicate specific features or sites of interest.

Award of costs

You should be aware of the possibility of the award of costs against parties who behave unreasonably.

To assist understanding of what 'unreasonable behaviour' means in the context of an examination under the PA 2008 you may find it helpful to read the Government guidance: '[Awards of costs: examinations of applications for development consent orders \(July 2013\)](#)' which can be found on the National Infrastructure Planning website.

Future notifications

If you are an interested party (numerical reference numbers starting with 10032, or reference numbers beginning with KGSP-AFP or KGSP-S57) you will continue to receive correspondence from the Planning Inspectorate about the examination throughout the process.

If you have received this letter because you were invited to attend the Preliminary Meeting, but you are not an interested party, you will **not** receive any further communication from us relating to this application. You can, however, visit the relevant project page on the National Infrastructure Planning website to stay informed of the progress of the examination.

If you are a statutory consultee, or a local authority without direct responsibility in the proposed development area, and have not made a relevant representation (reference number beginning with KGSP), then you should inform the Case Manager if you wish to become a registered interested party by **Wednesday 13 April 2016**. **Statutory consultees who have not made a relevant representation and do not notify the Case Manager of their wish to become an interested party will not receive any further correspondence.**

If I require further information or written comments (a Rule 17 request) on the dates specified within **Annex B**, this will be sent to only those persons I consider it is applicable to; however it will be published on the National Infrastructure Planning Website.

Management of Information

The Planning Inspectorate has a commitment to information transparency. Therefore, all information submitted for this project (if accepted) and a record of advice which the Planning Inspectorate have given can be found on the Planning Inspectorate website together with the name of the person or organisation who asked for the advice. The privacy of any other personal information has been protected in accordance with our Information Charter.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Green

Jonathan Green, Examining Inspector

Annexes:

- A. Availability of representations and application documents
- B. Timetable for examination of the application
- C. Draft Accompanied Site Visit itinerary provided by the applicant

Availability of Examination Documents

All application documents including relevant representations and application documents are available on the Keuper gas Storage pages of the National Infrastructure Planning website:

<http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/north-west/keuper-gas-storage-project/>

Documents can be viewed electronically at the following locations. Please note that you may need to bring a form of ID to use the computer at these locations.

Electronic Deposit Locations:

Northwich Library

Witton Street
Northwich
CW9 5DR
Tel: 01606 44221

Opening times: Monday - Wednesday: 9.00am - 5.00pm
 Thursday & Friday: 9:00am - 7:00pm
 Saturday: 9.00am - 1.00pm

Printing charges: A4 B/W – 20p per sheet
 A4 Colour – 80p per sheet

You must be a member of the library to use the computers, but this is free, takes only a few minutes and ID is not required.

Cheshire West & Chester Council

Wyvern House
The Dumber
Winsford
CW7 1AH

Opening times: Monday – Friday 8.30am – 5.00pm

Printing charges: A4 B/W – 10p per sheet
 A4 Colour – £1.00 per sheet
 A3 B/W – 20p per sheet
 A3 Colour – £1.50 per sheet

Halton Lea Library

Halton Lea
Runcorn
WA7 2PF
0151 511 7744

Opening times: Monday 10:00am - 5:00pm
Tuesday 9:00am - 7:00pm
Wednesday 10:00am - 5:00pm
Thursday 9:00am - 7:00pm
Friday 10:00am - 5:00pm
Saturday 10:00am- 2:30pm

Printing charges: A4 B/W – 15p per sheet
A4 Colour – 25p per sheet
A3 B/W – 25p per sheet
A3 Colour – 45p per sheet

You must be a member of the library to use the computers, but this is free, takes only a few minutes and ID is not required.

Timetable for the examination of the Keuper Gas Storage Project application

Item	Matters	Due Dates
1	Preliminary Meeting	10:00am Wednesday 16 March 2016
2	First issue specific hearing on the development consent order (DCO)	2:00pm Wednesday 16 March 2016
3	Issue by ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examination timetable • ExA first written questions 	As soon as practicable following the Preliminary Meeting
4	<p>Deadline 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadline for statutory parties to inform the Examining Authority of a wish to be considered as an interested party • Request or receipt of notification (using the prescribed form) by persons within certain categories of interests in the land of a wish to become an interested party • Optional written summaries of oral cases made at the first issue specific hearing • All post hearing documents • Notification by interested parties of wish to be heard at an open floor hearing • Notification of a wish to make oral representations at a compulsory acquisition hearing • Notification of wish to make oral representations at the second issue specific hearing on the local impact of the project and the DCO • Notification by interested parties of wish to attend any accompanied site visits 	Wednesday 13 April 2016

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submissions from interested parties recommending itinerary items for the accompanied site visit • Comments by interested parties on the applicant's draft accompanied site visit itinerary 	
5	<p>Notification by the ExA of date, time and place for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue specific hearing to be held on the local environmental impact of the project and the draft DCO • Any accompanied site visit(s) • Any open-floor hearing (if requested) • Any compulsory acquisition hearing (if requested) 	<p>Wednesday 20 April 2016</p>
6	<p>Deadline 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadline for receipt by the ExA of: • Comments on relevant representations (RRs) • Summaries of all RR's exceeding 1500 words • Written representations (WRs) by all interested parties • Summaries of all WRs exceeding 1500 words • Local Impact Report (LIR) from any local authorities • Statements of Common Ground requested by the ExA • Responses to ExA's first written questions • Comments on any other / additional submissions received prior to the preliminary meeting • Any further information requested by the ExA for this deadline 	<p>Friday 29 April 2016</p>

7	<p>Deadline 3</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on WRs • Responses to comments on RRs • Comments on Local Impact Reports • Comments on Statements of Common Ground • Comments on responses to ExA's first written questions • Comments on written summaries of case put at the first issue specific hearing • Any revised DCO from the applicant • Any further information requested by the ExA for this deadline 	<p>Tuesday 17 May 2016</p>
8	<p>Date reserved for the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compulsory Acquisition Hearing, if requested 	<p>Monday 23 May 2016 (afternoon)</p>
9	<p>Date reserved for the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accompanied Site Visit • Open Floor Hearing, if requested (evening) 	<p>Tuesday 24 May 2016</p>
10	<p>Date reserved for the;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue specific hearing on the local environmental impacts of the project and the draft DCO 	<p>Wednesday 25 May 2016</p>
11	<p>Date reserved for the;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuation of issue specific hearings on local environmental impacts and the draft DCO (if required) 	<p>Thursday 26 May 2016</p>
12	<p>Deadline 4</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by ExA of:</p>	<p>Tuesday 7 June 2016</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All post hearing documents (including any revised DCO from the applicant) • Any updated Statements of Common Ground • Optional written summaries of oral cases made at the open-floor, issue specific hearings and compulsory acquisition hearings • Notification by interested parties of wish to make oral representations at the third issue specific hearing on the draft Development Consent Order (DCO) and any related local impact report matters • Any further information requested by the ExA for this deadline 	
13	<p>Issue by ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ExA's second round of written questions, if required • Any further request for Statements of Common Ground • Notification by the ExA of the time and place for any further issue specific hearing relating to the draft DCO, any local environmental impacts and any other issues, if required 	Tuesday 14 June 2016
14	<p>Deadline 5</p> <p>Deadline for receipt of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses to ExA's second written questions and any further requests for Statements of Common Ground • Comments on written summaries of case put at the second issue specific, open floor and compulsory acquisition hearings 	Tuesday 5 July 2016
15	<p>Deadline 6</p> <p>Deadline for receipt of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on responses to ExA's second round of written questions and any further Statements of Common Ground 	Thursday 14 July 2016

16	Issue by ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES) if required 	Wednesday 20 July 2016
17	Date reserved for; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue specific hearing(s) on local environmental impacts of the project, the draft DCO and any other issues if required 	Thursday 28 and Friday 29 July 2016
18	Deadline 7 Deadline for the receipt of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional written summary of the case put orally at the issue specific hearing on the draft DCO, local environmental issues and any other hearings held • Any revised draft DCO from the applicant • Any further information requested by the ExA for this deadline 	Friday 5 August 2016
19	Deadline 8 Deadline for receipt of; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on written summaries of case put at the issue specific hearing on the draft DCO, local environmental issues and any other hearings held • Comments the applicant's revised draft DCO, if submitted • Comments on the RIES, if required 	Friday 12 August 2016
20	Deadline for close of examination The ExA is under a duty to complete the examination of the application by the end of the period of 6 months beginning with the day after the close of the Preliminary Meeting	Friday 16 September 2016

Annex C

Draft Accompanied Site Visit Itinerary – drafted by the applicant Keuper Gas Storage Limited

Date: Tuesday 24 May 2016

Time: 10:00 – 17:00 (approx.)

Requirements: Safety Boots, Hard hat, LEP, High Viz. KGSL can provide safety equipment but 2 weeks' notice of numbers is required. Suitable clothing for the likely conditions must be worn.

Proposed Route:

Start & Facilities (Lunch) Break – Lach Dennis Village Hall [or Optional Start/Break at INOVYN Holford Office.]

[or Optional Start at Crewe Arms Hotel, Crewe = 30 – 40 mins drive to Stop 1]

Stop	Method	Location	Vista
1	Drive	Past Byley airfield (stop at entrance) [No access to HGSL Site]	Typical landscaping of GPP(HGSL), (plant barely visible)
Pause 1	Subject to driver discretion	Drakelow Lane	Land areas subject to Compulsory Acquisition (Cross Lanes Farm)
2	Drive	Land off Drakelow Lane	Typical gas (HGSL) wellhead (cavity), typical (HGSL) GMC. Former (HGSL) SMC location (for B&W connection).
Walk1	Walk	Land off Drakelow Lane H406	Proposed location for SMC /GMC / H502
Pause 2	Subject to driver discretion	Yatehouse Lane, (Entrance to Brownhayes Farm) [Option to drive along Brownhayes Farm track].	Land areas subject to Compulsory Acquisition (Brownhayes Farm Track) (Yew Tree Farm)
Pause 3	Subject to driver discretion	Yatehouse Green, Yatehouse Lane	Land areas subject to Compulsory Acquisition (Yatehouse Green Farm)
3	Drive	SGSP/KGSP Site entrance off King Street. [Collect SGSP Host]	Site Entrance and route to GPP. Intended use of site entrance, proposed security location
4	Drive	SGSP site road to proposed electrical compound and on to SGSP GPP. Return to entrance. [Safety Induction Video Required]	SGSP Site Road & Public Byway RB7 & RB8. Proposed new pylon and electrical connection compound location. Typical external view (SGSP) GPP.
5	Drive	NTS compounds	Existing (HGSL/SGSP) NTS compounds and proposed NTS location
Walk2	Walk	Across fields to proposed gas plant location [Difficult terrain / Livestock may be present]	Proposed GPP location and Construction Compound. Puddinglake Brook.
6	Drive	Holford Brinefield BL or HL site [Subject to rig location]	Normal brine winning operations / landscape. Typical brine wellhead. (option to see workover rig)
7	(Driver	Lach Dennis Village Hall [or	

	required break 45mins)	Holford Office] <i>(Optional Lunch break / use of facilities)</i>	
8	Drive	Lostock works, Griffiths Road via Holford site entrance.	Proposed use of existing brine reservoirs. Example of surge vessel. Proposed location of new tanks
9	Drive (30mins from Los)	Whitley	Existing pumphouse and proposed surge vessel.
10	Drive (20mins from Whitley)	Runcorn [Optional use of facilities]	Existing brine pipe. Proposed location of bridge crossing of Weaver Navigation. View across to Telford wall and weaver sluices on MSC

Runcorn return to Lach Dennis approximately 45 minutes. Runcorn return to Crewe approximately 90 minutes.