

Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP

17 November 2022

Dear Secretary of State,

**Keuper Underground Gas Storage Facility Order 2017, made 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

**Application for a Non-Material Change in relation to the nature of gas stored and layout of the site.**

I am writing to let you know that Keuper Gas Storage Limited (KGSL) intends to submit an application in accordance with the Planning Act 2008 ("2008 Act") and the Infrastructure Planning (Changes to, and Revocation of, Development Consent Orders) Regulations 2011 ("2011 Regulations") to make non-material changes to the Keuper Underground Gas Storage Facility Order 2017 ("2017 Order").

I am writing in accordance with Regulation 7 of the 2011 Regulations to consult you on the proposed non-material changes.

The Keuper Gas Storage Project (KGSP) involves using specially designed underground salt cavities – created through solution mining – to store gas. The project was granted a Development Consent Order (DCO) in 2017.

This project – essential to the UK's energy security and transition to net zero – was recently included as an investment priority to be accelerated in the Growth Plan 2022. If approved, the hydrogen storage facility would be the largest of its kind in Europe, with the 19 underground cavities able to store more than 1,300 gigawatt hours of hydrogen – enough to heat more than 100,000 homes for an entire year.

We are now seeking consent from you to change the nature of gas stored to include the option of hydrogen gas storage and to the location of one building and one compound; necessitating minor updates to the Landscape Plans, Works Plans and Elevation Plans. The location, amount, size and construction method of the 19 cavities is not planned to change.

The changes proposed to the Plans include:

1. Amendment of the definition of 'gas' to include 'hydrogen'
2. Amendment to reference of 'National Grid's National Transmission System', to give greater flexibility to connect to both the national system and any future hydrogen network

3. Relocation of the planned office building
4. An option to include an alternative location of the planned gas connection compound

Please find enclosed a copy of the public notice which will appear in the Northwich Guardian and Runcorn & Widnes Weekly News in the weeks commencing 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> November. This sets out the changes proposed to the DCO; where the application documents can be viewed; and where to send any representations.

The application documents and plans showing the nature and location of the land concerned can be viewed free of charge at: [REDACTED] (Non Material Change Application Documents).

The deadline for receipt of representations is 23:59 Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

Not only will the project play a vital role in Britain's energy security, it will also aid the successful rollout of a hydrogen economy, with the lack of storage being a current barrier to deployment.

We'd welcome the opportunity to meet and discuss the project, given its identification as a priority investment and role in Britain's hydrogen future. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you would like to arrange a date for a briefing or have any questions regarding the non-material change application.

If you have any questions on the plans you can contact the project team on [kgsp@fontcomms.com](mailto:kgsp@fontcomms.com) or 0800 689 1095.

Yours sincerely,

**Richard Stevenson**

KGSP Project Manger

On behalf of

Keuper Gas Storage Limited and INEOS Inovyn