



Meeting note

File reference	EN030002 Keuper Gas Storage Project
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	4 June 2015
Meeting with	Keuper Gas Storage Ltd
Venue	Teleconference
Attendees	The Planning Inspectorate Tom Carpen – Infrastructure Planning Lead Tracey Williams – Case Manager Ewa Sherman – Case Officer Steven Parker – Assistant Case Officer Richard Kent - EIA and Land Rights Advisor Keuper Gas Storage Ltd Richard Stevenson – INEOS Enterprises Limited David Peterson - INEOS Enterprises Limited Paul Zyda – Zyda Law Alexandra Jones – Zyda Law
Meeting objectives	For the developer to update the Planning Inspectorate on the progress of their project
Circulation	All Attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

Introduction

The Planning Inspectorate (PINS) outlined its openness policy and ensured the developer understood that any issues discussed and advice given would be recorded and placed on the Planning Inspectorate's website under s51 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008). Further to this, it was made clear that any advice given did not constitute legal advice upon which the developer (or others) can rely.

Project update

PINS asked the applicant to advise in more detail on its revised approach to its red line boundary and order limits for the project. The applicant explained that the rationale for changing the order limits from a single continuous red line boundary to four discrete red line boundaries was based on minimising the land area covered by the powers contained in the Development Consent Order (DCO). The applicant explained that this revision removes the existing pipeline from the proposal, for which no works are required. The applicant explained that they have taken consideration of

PINS advice that the definition of any proposed Nationally Significant Project (NSIP) in the DCO has to be clear.

The red line boundary is no longer a continuous line but is focussed on four development areas:

- The main development area (Holford Brinefield) – site of solution mining to create gas storage cavities, gas processing plant, gas marshalling area and pipe distribution network to/from the cavities;
- The Whitley Pumping Station – reinstate an existing, but out of use, pumphouse on Marsh Lane, Whitley;
- Lostock works – new surge vessel and tank; and
- The Runcorn Outfall – new pipe bridge over the Weaver Navigation Canal to facilitate brine discharge outfall into the Manchester Ship Canal.

PINS asked if any areas had been removed in comparison with the first draft of application documents submitted for review in January 2015.

The applicant confirmed that the new order limits are within the previous red line boundary which was consulted on under section 42 of the PA 2008, and the entire project has been assessed for the EIA purposes. The feedback received resulted in the applicant simplifying the project definition and some good project adjustments have been made after the consultation with the neighbouring land owners. The basic components of the development have not changed; however, the red line boundary was reduced to limit the land potentially required for compulsory acquisition of land and rights. The practicalities of the change allow for the reduction in the number of the Affected Persons, which is also demonstrated in the draft Book of Reference.

The applicant indicated that following a meeting on 20 April 2015 the Environment Agency is content with their approach regarding the use of the existing Environmental Permit for the brine discharge.

PINS emphasised that the applicant must be aware of any potential implications if for whatever reason that existing water discharge permit could not be used by the applicant as currently it is for the benefit of the operator rather than the applicant, and for the applicant to address the points it raised in the recent draft documents [meeting note](#).

The applicant explained that in discussion with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) they will not consider any Control of Major Accidents and Hazards (COMAH) report until after any DCO consent is granted. The applicant advised that it was preparing a draft report in any case, should this be needed, and PINS advised that the applicant should be prepared to answer any questions an Examining Authority may have if the application is accepted for examination. PINS advised that the Examining Authority (ExA) may also be asked questions of the HSE where there was a need to understand matters relating to the DCO.

Action Points

- The applicant to provide a short Schedule of Changes in relation to the red line boundary of the project, including an explanation of why this approach has been taken.

- The applicant to send the Appendices to the draft Consultation Report in order to better inform the review of the document.
- Further meeting to be arranged following the review by PINS of the second draft DCO application documents, likely to be at the beginning of July.