



Meeting note

Project name	Aldbrough Hydrogen Storage
File reference	EN030003
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	09 April 2024
Meeting with	Equinor New Energy Limited (“The Applicant”)
Venue	Microsoft Teams
Meeting objectives	Project Update Meeting
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed, and advice given

The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) advised that a note of the meeting would be taken and published on its website in accordance with section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (the PA2008). Any advice given under section 51 would not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) could rely.

Project and Programme Updates

The Applicant provided a project update; the key aspects were:

- The project has mostly been unchanged since the Scoping Report submission in May 2023, but there have been minor design changes, although these were not expected to impact the capacity of the scheme.
- The red line boundary has been optimised and may be further optimised following statutory consultation. Changes to the red line boundary include the removal of an area to the north, amendments to the required area in the North Sea and inclusion of the existing Aldbrough Gas Storage facility within the boundary.
- Equinor and SSE are in the process of establishing a new Special Purpose Vehicle company to act as the Applicant for the project. The timing of this change in relation to the Statutory Consultation was queried by the Inspectorate and the Applicant confirmed that the new company would be identified as the Applicant for the Statutory Consultation.
- The Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) is in the process of being finalised in advance of the Statutory Consultation, which is planned for June and July 2024. The scope of the Consultation has been informally discussed with East Riding of Yorkshire Council (ERYC) and the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) will be formally submitted to ERYC soon.
- Draft versions of the Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) and Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) Assessment reports will be sent to Natural England shortly.

The Applicant provided an update to the Inspectorate on the current programme for

scheme development and consenting. The key points made as part of this update were:

- Statutory Consultation is anticipated to commence in June 2024 and conclude in July 2024.
- Submission of draft documents to PINS for review at the end of October 2024.
- The DCO application submission date is now anticipated to be during April 2025.

Any other business

The Inspectorate asked about the Applicant's engagement with the Health and Safety Executive. The Applicant advised that there had been a previous meeting which was held last year and that there is another planned for May 2024.

The Applicant reminded the Inspectorate that outside of the Development Consent Order (DCO) process, it regularly meets with a local interest group (Aldbrough Community Liaison Group) to provide consistent information about project as well as other matters connected to the Aldbrough site.

Specific decisions/ follow-up required?

The following actions were agreed:

- The submission date on the National Infrastructure Planning website is to be updated by the Inspectorate to April 2025.
- The Inspectorate Case Team will circulate potential dates in early September 2024 for the next Project Update Meeting and liaise with the Applicant to organise the meeting.
- The Applicant is to keep the Inspectorate informed as the programme changes.