



Meeting note

Project name	HyNet North West Hydrogen Pipeline
File reference	EN060006
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	4 July 2023
Meeting with	Cadent Gas Limited
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 Update

Cadent provided a brief update to the Project status. Work has continued to define potential land use planning zones for hydrogen. Processes are in place for natural gas so the Applicant sought to establish similar parameters for hydrogen; discussions with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) about this were ongoing at a project and industry level. Once this work was completed, a further round of targeted consultation was planned for Autumn 2023, which would be based on circa 15 areas of potential change, the Applicant advised the majority of which were small changes to the red line boundary. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to include the rationale for the type of consultation within the Consultation Report. A Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) addendum has been drafted, which will be sent to local planning authorities for comment shortly.

The drafting of the Development Consent Order (DCO) and Works Plans has commenced. Currently the draft DCO contained 15 – 20 requirements, which would be increased as the Applicant prepared its Environmental Statement. Draft documentation was likely to be submitted for review, at a date to be confirmed in later meetings, including the draft DCO and Consultation Report. The Inspectorate requested advanced versions of documents to enable more detailed feedback.

Early Adopters Programme

The Applicant has registered to participate in the Early Adopters Programme, the aims of which are to assist with the development of a new enhanced pre-application service. An

announcement on the programme and its participants would be published, providing additional information on the components being tested, on the Inspectorate's website. The Applicant was advised to share this with its main consultees.

The Applicant would be testing four elements of the Early Adopter Programme:

Programme Plan

This was a mandatory component to the programme, to be shared with key consultees and made publicly available by the Applicant on its website. It is important for the Applicant to maintain the plan in a proportionate manner, providing transparency with consultees about key milestones in the programme. The Applicant would reflect on the programme and the level of detail required. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant could decide on the appropriateness and relevance of the information within the plan, which could later be tested on its usefulness for the parties which relied on it.

Issues Tracking

The Inspectorate would share a template, which the Applicant could comment on. The Applicant has already commenced work on this for previous consultation periods.

Principle Areas of Disagreement Summary Statements (PADSS)

The [A66 Northern Trans-Pennine Project](#) and [Lower Thames Crossing](#) projects had set a precedent for the use of PADSS at post submission stages. For the Early Adopters Programme, PADSS would be prepared during the pre-application stage. PADSS are consultee owned and authored and the Applicant would be required to request completion of them in time to accompany the DCO application submission.

Outline Control Documents

The Inspectorate has developed a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) template for offshore wind farm projects. This could be shared with the Applicant as a point of reference in the development of its own outline control documents (albeit some of the measures and approaches may not be applicable to this type of development). Equivalent templates for different sectors could be developed in future. The Inspectorate would expect mature iterations of outline control documents to be submitted for review so it could provide advice on format and content, and also identify best practice for the development of sector specific templates.

AOB

Future meetings would consist of a general project update meeting and discussions regarding the early adopters programme. s51 advice would be issued as appropriate.

The Inspectorate would aim to arrange the next project update meeting for September 2023.