



Meeting note

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| Project name | Hynet North West Hydrogen Pipeline |
| File reference | EN060006 |
| Status | Final |
| Author | The Planning Inspectorate |
| Date | 19 September 2023 |
| Meeting with | Cadent Gas 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.

Introductions

The Applicant provided an overview of the Proposed Development including the key destinations for hydrogen and the intended customers. The project includes nine above ground installations to control the flow and direction of hydrogen. The Applicant noted that there is the potential for future technology to be developed so that above ground installations are not necessary in some situations, but this is not possible at the moment.

Early Adopters Programme

Issues Tracking

The Applicant noted there has been considerable interest in the project and listed some emerging issues. The Applicant stated that it is using an issues tracker and that it has been listing all key themes which have arisen from the consultation period, alongside the Applicant’s response to those matters. The Applicant confirmed that the tracker contains a summary sheet, as well as the detailed issues tracking.

The Inspectorate queried whether the issues tracker has been used to inform consultation. The Applicant stated that once it has more information from the ES then the tracker will be used for this, however it has been using the information within the tracker to inform agenda items in consultation meetings.

The Inspectorate queried how the Applicant intends to publish a version of the issues tracker on its website. The Applicant confirmed that a publication version was being finalised.

Pre-application Principal Areas of Disagreement Summary Statements (PADSS)

The Applicant asked whether PADSS are a replacement of the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) or whether the two documents work together. The Inspectorate noted that it is actively considering the interaction between issues tracking, PADSS and SoCG through the Early Adopters programme.

The Applicant asked whether PADSS should be supplemented with a consultation log. The Inspectorate advised that the development of PADSS should rely on the structure established in the template shared.

The Applicant queried whether the Inspectorate had received feedback about the use of PADSS from other projects. The Inspectorate advised the only experience has been in post-submission stages. The trialling of PADSS within the Early Adopters programme is to learn how they can benefit the pre-application stage, which is untested at this stage.

The Applicant queried about what appropriate action should be taken if it does not receive engagement from stakeholders on PADSS. The Inspectorate advised that the system cannot currently compel consultees to engage in a PADSS process, but the Applicant should record in its Consultation Report where an attempt to establish a PADSS with a party has failed.

Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) Template

The Applicant stated that the template provided by the Inspectorate aligned with the Applicant's own approach. The Applicant has started to prepare its outline CEMP and populate it with early mitigation measures. The Applicant queried whether supplementary outline management plans (for example, an outline Soil Management Plan) should be included with the outline CEMP. The Inspectorate advised that where possible, supporting outline management plans should be provided upfront and with the application, noting there are benefits to the Applicant and Interested Parties of providing these details.

The Applicant asked about the terminology of CEMP and stated it preferred to use the term of Code of Construction Practice. The Inspectorate advised that it understands that it refers to the same document/ evidence and that within the Early Adopters programme it would be the Applicant's preference about what to call the document.

Programme

The Applicant explained that its programme is updated each month. The Applicant provided an overview of its current actions and stated that it will review the ES after targeted consultation. Targeted consultation has been delayed but the Applicant expects it to take place on 20 November for 4 weeks. The Applicant has started to prepare plans and draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) documents which are expected to be submitted to the Inspectorate for review in November/December 2023. The Applicant advised that it

expects to submit the DCO application submission in March 2023; the Inspectorate will update the project page to reflect this. The Inspectorate advised that if the Consultation Report is submitted for review, the Applicant should ensure that it is a well progressed version, in order for the Inspectorate to provide meaningful feedback.

Specific decisions/ follow-up required?

The following actions were agreed:

- Cadent to update its website and add a consultation issues tracker – tracker currently with Cadent's IT team for development in PowerBi and Excel draft sent to PINS
- Cadent to provide PINS with an updated programme – completed