

Southampton to London Pipeline Project

Volume 7

Draft Statements of Common Ground
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Draft Statements of Common Ground

B2325300-JAC-000-COE-MEM-000368

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Appendix A. Statement of Common Ground Template



1.1 Purpose of Document

- 1.1.1 This document outlines the approach that Esso Petroleum Company, Limited (Esso) has taken to Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) for its Southampton to London Pipeline project and a blank template to provide an indication of structure and topics covered.

1.2 Introduction

- 1.2.1 In March 2015, guidance was issued by the then Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) on the examination of applications for development consent and paragraphs 58-65 deal with SoCG¹. The guidance indicates that “A statement of common ground is a written statement prepared jointly by the applicant and another party or parties, setting out any matters on which they agree. As well as identifying matters which are not in real dispute, it is also useful if a statement identifies those areas where agreement has not been reached”.
- 1.2.2 The guidance also indicates that the Government believe SoCGs help the examining authority focus on any material differences between the parties. It is advised that applicants should start to work with relevant statutory consultees to agree SoCGs during the pre-application period and should aim to have reached an initial agreement in the pre-examination period. Submission of the SoCGs is encouraged after the submission of the application and applicants should not wait until the examination period has started to prepare or submit them.
- 1.2.3 Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 2 contains advice in section 22 on the importance of SoCGs and that it is beneficial to work proactively on SoCGs in the pre-application and pre-examination period². The relevant local authorities are particularly mentioned as organisations that applicants should look to agree SoCGs with.
- 1.2.4 Following this guidance and advice the project has proactively started the process of drafting and agreeing SoCGs with relevant statutory consultees. A schedule of who the project will aim to agree SoCGs with has been included in Section 9.3 of this document.

1.3 Statement of Common Ground Approach

- 1.3.1 At the date of submission, Esso will have and will continue to meet and engage with the stakeholders outlined below with the aim of preparing SoCGs. The process requires third party engagement, it is anticipated that some may still be ongoing or unavailable at the time of Examination. The role and use of SoCG will also be subject to any directions the Examining Authority may make as to which SoCGs it requires.

A list of who Esso has commenced SoCG discussions has been included below.

¹ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/418015/examinations_guidance_-_final_for_publication.pdf

² https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Advice_note_2.pdf



- Affinity Water
- Basingstoke Canal Society
- Cadent Gas
- CLH Pipelines
- East Hampshire District Council
- Eastleigh Borough Council
- Environment Agency
- ES Pipelines
- Forestry Commission
- Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
- Hampshire County Council
- Hart District Council
- Highways England
- Historic England
- London Borough of Hounslow
- National Grid
- Natural England
- Network Rail
- Portsmouth Water
- Runnymede District Council
- Rushmoor Borough Council
- Scottish & Southern Electric
- South Downs National Park Authority
- South East Water
- Southern Gas Networks
- Southern Water
- Spelthorne Borough Council
- Surrey County Council
- Surrey Heath Borough Council
- Surrey Wildlife Trust
- Thames Water
- UK Power Networks
- Winchester City Council

1.3.2 A blank template of the Statement of Common Ground has been included (Appendix A) to provide an indication of the structure and the topics that may be covered.



Appendix A. Statement of Common Ground Template



Southampton to London Pipeline Project

DRAFT Statement of Common Ground

Between:

Esso Petroleum Company, Limited

and

[other party]



Signed	
Printed Name	Tim Sunderland
Position	SLP Project Executive
On behalf of	Esso Petroleum Company, Limited
Date	

Signed	
Printed Name	TBC
Position	TBC
On behalf of	[Other party]
Date	

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of Document

- 1.1.1 A Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) is a written statement produced as part of the Application process for a Development Consent Order (DCO) and is prepared jointly between the applicant for a DCO and another party. It sets out matters of agreement between both parties, as well as matters where there is not an agreement. It also details matters that are under discussion.
- 1.1.2 The aim of a SoCG is to help the Examining Authority manage the Examination Phase of a DCO application. Understanding the status of the matters at hand will allow the Examining Authority to focus their questioning, and provide greater predictability for all participants in examination. A SoCG may be submitted prior to the start of or during Examination, and then updated as necessary or as requested during the Examination Phase.

1.2 Description of the Project

- 1.2.1 Esso Petroleum Company, Limited (Esso) launched its Southampton to London Pipeline Project late in 2017. The project proposes to replace 90km of its 105km aviation fuel pipeline that runs from the Fawley Refinery near Southampton, to the West London Terminal storage facility in Hounslow. In spring 2018, Esso held a non-statutory consultation which helped it to select the preferred corridor for the replacement pipeline. In autumn 2018, it held a statutory consultation on the preferred route for the replacement pipeline. In early 2019, it held a second phase of statutory consultation on design refinements.

1.3 This Statement of Common Ground

- 1.3.1 This SoCG has been prepared jointly by Esso as the applicant and [other party – followed by its interest in the project].
- 1.3.2 For the purpose of this SoCG, Esso and XX will jointly be referred to as the “Parties”. When referencing XX alone, they will be referred to as “the Consultee”.
- 1.3.3 Throughout this SoCG:
- Where a section begins ‘matters agreed’, this sets out matters that have been agreed between the Parties.
 - Where a section begins ‘matters not agreed’, this sets out matters that are not agreed between the Parties.
 - Where a section begins ‘matters subject to ongoing discussion’, this sets out matters that are subject to further negotiation between the Parties.

1.4 Structure of the Statement of Common Ground

- 1.4.1 **This SoCG has been structured to reflect matters and topics of relevance to the Consultee in respect of Esso’s Southampton to London Pipeline Project.**
- Section 2 provides an overview of the engagement to date between the Parties.
 - Section 3 provides a summary of areas that have been agreed.
 - Section 4 provides a record of areas that have not yet been agreed.
 - Section 5 provides a list of ongoing matters (if any) that will be agreed or not agreed by the Parties during examination.
 - Section 6 provides a record of relevant documents and drawings

2. Record of Engagement Undertaken to Date

2.1 Pre-application Engagement and Consultation

2.1.1 The table below sets out the consultation and engagement that has been undertaken between the Parties prior to the submission of the DCO application.

Date	Format	Topic	Discussion Points
	(e.g. meeting, telcon, workshop, correspondence)		

2.2 Engagement Following Submission of Application

2.2.1 The table below sets out the consultation and engagement that has been undertaken between the Parties since the submission of the DCO application.

Date	Format	Topic	Discussion Points
	(e.g. meeting, telcon, workshop, correspondence)		



3. Matters Agreed

3.1.1 The table below sets out the matters agreed in relation to different topics.

Topic	Matter agreed	Reference



4. Matters Not Agreed

4.1.1 The table below sets out the matters not agreed in relation to different topics.

Topic	Matter not agreed	Reference



5. Matters Subject to On-going Discussion

5.1.1 The table below sets out the matters subject to ongoing discussion.

Topic	Matter subject to ongoing discussion	Reference



6. Relevant documents and drawings

6.1 List of relevant documents and drawings

6.1.1 The following is a list of documents and drawings upon which this SoCG is based.

Application Reference	Title	Content	Date