



Meeting note

Project name	Humber Low Carbon Pipelines
File reference	EN070006
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	15 December 2021
Meeting with	National Grid Carbon (NGC)
Venue	Virtual
Meeting objectives	Project Update
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 – Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Cluster Sequencing Update – Track 1 Clusters and Phase 2 Emitters

On 19 October 2021, BEIS announced that the East Coast Cluster was confirmed as a track 1 cluster, in parallel with the Hynet North West Cluster. This confirmation provided for further opportunity to engage with government regarding associated carbon capture usage and storage (CCUS) and Hydrogen business models. The next stage in the consultation sequencing process translated to Phase 2 emitters within the track 1 clusters bidding to be the initial connectees within these clusters; these would be short listed from May 2022. These would be projects of appropriate maturity and financial readiness, suitable for connection in the track 1 cluster networks. Potential emitters aligned with unsuccessful track 1 clusters could have the opportunity to re-align to successful ones. This could require reconsideration of scenarios and routes on the Applicant's part, to establish a baseline network and potential driver emitters. Prior to the cluster sequencing process the project development was influenced by the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund (ISCF) bid. This had identified a number of potential connections including, but not exclusive to, Keadby 3 Low Carbon Gas Power Station (Keadby 3) and Drax Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage (Drax BECCS).

Non Statutory Consultation and next steps for engagement

Non statutory consultation took place between 20 September and 22 October 2021. This introduced the pipeline network ambition and technology, route corridor options, the interface between onshore and offshore pipelines, transportation and storage processes and full chain capture.

Principle themes of feedback related to location specific feedback, compensation, construction methods, environmental impact, safety, the needs case, and potential to

extend the lifetime of fossil fuel reliance and carbon emissions. The consultation was digital led due to the geographical scale of the area that the corridor options covered and the continued uncertainty regarding covid-19. Telephone support was made available along with adverts in print media, hard copy consultation documents in deposit locations and postal flyers being issued along route corridors. A consultation feedback report was being prepared, for issue in Q1 2022. The Applicant confirmed that the number of virtual visitors to online events would be captured in the report. There would be ongoing engagement with technical stakeholders and statutory consultation during 2022. There had been positive engagement with the Humber Nature and Yorkshire Marine Nature Partnerships, who were signposting to local initiatives the Applicant could link with.

The Applicant had engaged with local planning authorities (LPA's) on its consultation and engagement approach, mooting likely two rounds of non statutory consultation followed by statutory consultation. Subsequent to the non statutory consultation and in light of the BEIS Cluster Sequencing phase 2 emitters shortlisting now taking place from May 2022, the timeline for this engagement was being reviewed. Current thinking was to use Q1/ Q2 2022 to continue effective engagement with stakeholders, refining route corridor options and engaging on project specifics, such as above ground installations (AGIs). This would be in an informal manner and feedback could be used to shape the project over the next six months, prior to statutory consultation later in 2022 (expected in Q3), after the BEIS Cluster Sequencing phase 2 announcements.

Stakeholder engagement and programme

Topic specific methodologies were being discussed with LPA's and technical stakeholders prior to submission of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) scoping report. An enhanced advice service had been entered into with the Environment Agency, Historic England and the Marine Management Organisation. The Applicant had initially also entered into a discretionary advice service agreement with Natural England (NE); however, this had been paused, due to NE resourcing challenges, but the Applicant would continue to engage to see if this could be re-started in 2022. The Applicant and NE had reached agreement on the scope of wintering bird surveys but noted that discussion had been on-going about methodologies for some other species and it might not be possible to reach final agreement prior to scoping. The Applicant was also in discussion with other consultation bodies on the scope of surveys and proposed assessment methodologies, e.g. the LPAs and local wildlife partnerships.

Emerging preferred corridor

A number of route options had been presented at consultation, split into sections A, B and C. Additional work and the consideration of consultation feedback would be required to determine the preferred route. The Applicant sought additional conversations with key stakeholders to refine the areas. Landfall locations for the project were subject to further work.

The project (Humber Low Carbon Pipeline) would facilitate full chain to mean low water springs, before the carbon is transported and stored offshore under separate consenting regimes being led by the Northern Endurance Partnership (NEP). The Applicant intended

to hold joint decision making workshops with British Petroleum (BP) as offshore promoter in Q1 2022 to refine the preferred landfall options for both environments.

The refinement of routes varied, with a wider scope at consultation to allow for flexibility. The corridors were approximately 1 kilometre (km) wide and would be refined for the next stages of engagement and consultation. The project continued to be predicated on dual pipelines for both carbon and hydrogen.

Surveys and EIA Scoping

The Applicant had commenced bird surveys in 2021 in line with approaches and methodologies previously agreed with NE. Phase 1 of the survey work had included fixed wing aerial surveys of the route corridors, with detailed aerial photography had been completed. The outcomes would be used to support further targeted survey effort planned for Q2/3 2022.

The Applicant was considering two different timeline options for EIA scoping, either prior to or post the BEIS phase 2 announcements. Prior scoping would support the current programme and allow for completion of scoping prior to the statutory consultation. Scoping after the announcement would provide more certainty regarding the scope of the project but would impact the programme in terms of statutory consultation and the submission of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application. The Applicant would be critically appraising the options and would provide an update at the next project update meeting. The Applicant and the Inspectorate noted the potential risk of earlier scoping, if different or additional emitters were identified in the BEIS announcements that resulted in new areas or aspects being identified, and therefore a possible need to re-scope the EIA.

Emitter projects and HLCP Interfaces

The Applicant had registered as an Interested Party (IP) for Keadby 3 project, being actively engaged in Protective Provisions, the drafting of a Statement of Common ground (SoCG) and first written questions. It provided in person support for the physical statutory consultation events for the Drax BECCS project and also formally responded to the consultation. It was submitting a response to the Equinor H2H Saltend consultation on siting/routing options. It registered as an IP for the Net Zero Teesside project, and did not expect an active role outside explaining the East Coast Cluster group. It was determining whether to submit Relevant Representations for the Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm project, owing to the potential for CCUS full chain being compromised by virtue of an offshore overlap between the proposed Endurance Reserve and wind farm array, but noted that this matter would be led by BP.

Programme

The original programme included submission of the DCO application towards the end of 2022. In early 2022, the Applicant would be establishing its timeline for scoping, statutory consultation, development of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and application submission. It would provide a programme update at the next project update meeting.

AOB

The Applicant advised it has submitted a comprehensive response to the consultation on the revised National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1, EN-2, EN-3 and EN-4), including comments in relation to carbon capture storage and hydrogen.

The next project update meeting would be arranged for February 2022.