



Meeting note

Project name	Humber Low Carbon Pipelines
File reference	EN070006
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	23 May 2022
Meeting with	National Grid Carbon (NGC)
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.

Strategic Update – Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Cluster Consultation

The Applicant noted that on 19 October 2021, BEIS announced the East Coast Cluster, along with the HyNet northwest cluster, had been confirmed as Track-1 clusters for potential deployment in the mid-2020s. This provides successful Track 1 clusters with the opportunity to discuss associated carbon capture usage and storage (CCUS) and Hydrogen business models with BEIS. The Applicant, as part of the East Coast Cluster, continues to engage with BEIS.

The Applicant advised that announcements on the Phase 2 emitter projects have been delayed with BEIS advising these would be announced from July 2022: with implications on the development of the project and production of literature for the statutory consultation. The Applicant advised that outside of the Phase 2 process there are projects, like Drax, which are being considered under a Greenhouse Gas Removal projects process in parallel. The outcome is anticipated to be confirmed from September 2022.

The Inspectorate queried if Track-1 timelines will move in line with the Phase 2 emitter announcement, to which the Applicant confirmed they are in continuous discussions with BEIS, making sure that an agile consenting strategy is adopted to achieve the programme.

Project Update

The Applicant confirmed they are making progress on the project development. In March, the Applicant identified their preferred route corridor based on the options that

formed the non-statutory consultation of September/ October 2021. They have detailed this within the non-statutory consultation feedback report.

The Applicant undertook a project update campaign in March 2022 when the landowners, stakeholders and members of the public were contacted in the vicinity of the preferred route corridor and in the consultation zone in the corridor options that formed the non-statutory consultation. A project update brochure was also provided at the same deposit locations used for the non-statutory consultation. It was available on request and included the details of "What happens next?". A public webinar was also held on 26 April 2022 which was well attended.

The project brochure and non-statutory consultation feedback Report was published in March 2022 and are available on the Applicant's project website, confirming:

- Preferred Route Corridor
- Summary of Feedback
- What happens next and FAQs

The Applicant confirmed they are continuing to work on the land referencing and survey work. Along with that, the project design work is also progressing with the Engineering team.

The Route Corridor will be refined and a preliminary route for the pipelines will be identified. The Applicant also confirmed that the stakeholder engagement is continuing and they are discussing the project with stakeholders, including local planning authorities, parish councils, and members of the public.

The Applicant advised that the statutory consultation is likely to take place in late Summer 2022.

Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Update – Responses, timeframes

The Applicant confirmed receipt of the Inspectorate's EIA Scoping Opinion, adopted on 20 May 2022. The Applicant advised that they are currently reviewing the document and may request a meeting if clarification on any specific points is required. A meeting was subsequently arranged for 22 June 2022.

The Applicant requested any feedback from the Inspectorate on the general approach and format of its Scoping Report. The Inspectorate stated that generally the Scoping Report was well presented and clear on what aspects/ matters it was intending to scope in and seeking to scope out. Information in the Scoping Report detailing the stakeholder engagement undertaken by the Applicant to date and the draft Register of Commitments was noted to have been helpful.

The Applicant noted the scoping consultation response from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) regarding effects on mental health, which referred to the assessment approach proposed in the Scoping Report for the HyNet North West Hydrogen Pipeline Project in terms of concerns over hydrogen safety. The Applicant was advised to review the detail in the HyNet scoping documentation on this matter and to discuss with the UKHSA as appropriate.

Interactions with potential emitter projects

The Applicant is engaging with the following projects:

- Keadby 3 Low Carbon Gas Power Station (Keadby 3) project (ref EN010114), the Examination is due to finish and the Applicant is finalising Protective Provisions and Statement of Common Ground (SoCG).
- Drax Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage (Drax BECCS) project (ref EN010120) is submitted to the Inspectorate and the Applicant will be engaging similarly as Keadby 3 and registering as an Interested Party. It highlighted potential themes in its responses to Drax BECCS relating to above ground installations (AGI) and protective provisions.
- Equinor's H2H Saltend project is going to be a Town and County Planning Act application submitted to East Riding of Yorkshire Council. They have concluded a further round of consultation and the Applicant has responded accordingly.
- Net Zero Teesside (ref EN010103) is in Examination and the Applicant will be responding to First Written Questions. As part of the East Coast cluster, the Applicant recognises that two main questions were asked for National Grid Carbon and Humber Low Carbon Pipelines.
- Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm (Hornsea 4) (ref EN010098), the Applicant is an Interested Party, and the Examination is continuing. The Applicant noted the overlap of the Crown Estate leases for the CCUS east coast cluster store and the Hornsea 4 wind farm array area.

Actions/AOB

The Inspectorate mentioned that they had recently had a discussion with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), who highlighted that design codes and standards for standoff and safety distances which exist for natural gas pipelines remain in development for Hydrogen and Carbon Dioxide Pipelines. The Applicant advised this is being considered by their Engineering team and they will keep this in mind.

The next project update meeting will be arranged for July/ August 2022.