



Preliminary Meeting Note

Application: Hynet Carbon Dioxide Pipeline
Reference: EN070007
Time and date: 20 March 2023, 10:00am
Venue: Virtual event (Microsoft Teams)

This meeting note is not a full transcript of the Preliminary Meeting. It is a summary of the key points discussed.

1. Welcome and Introduction

Christopher Butler welcomed those present and introduced himself as lead member of the Panel of Examining Inspectors. Matthew Shrigley introduced himself as the accompanying panel member of the Examining Authority (ExA), to examine the HyNet Carbon Dioxide Pipeline (the Application).

Christopher Butler explained that the appointment of the ExA was delegated to the Inspectorate by the Secretary of State (SoS) for the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on 17 January 2023.

Christopher Butler explained that the ExA would be examining the Application made by Liverpool Bay CCS Limited (the Applicant) before making a recommendation to the Secretary of State, who will decide whether an Order granting development consent for the proposed development, which is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), should be made.

Christopher Butler explained the purpose of the Preliminary Meeting (PM) and noted that the Examination will commence after the PM closes.

The ExA confirmed that all documents and submissions received and accepted during the Examination will be published on the project-specific page of the National Infrastructure Planning website.

2. Audio Recording

The full audio recording of the Preliminary Meeting is available on the National Infrastructure Planning website and can be accessed [here](#).

3. General Data Protection Regulation

The ExA explained the Planning Inspectorate's duties under General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Further info relating to the GDPR can be found in the Planning Inspectorate's [Privacy Note](#).

4. Examination Process

The ExA briefly explained the examination process under the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008), further information can be found in [Advice Note 8.4](#)

5. Initial Assessment of Principal Issues

The ExA explained the purpose of the Initial Assessment of Principal Issues (section 88 of the PA2008), which can be found in Annex B of the [Rule 6 letter](#) of 20 February 2023 and asked for any observations on them.

No comments were made by any parties in attendance.

6. Examination Timetable

The ExA noted requests already received in writing to amend the draft Examination Timetable contained in Annex C of the [Rule 6 letter](#) and also welcomed further suggestions from the parties in attendance. All comments received were noted by the ExA and considerations will be reflected in the [Rule 8 letter](#).

Flintshire County Council (FCC) made reference to its inability to submit its Local Impact Report (LIR) at Deadline 1 on 17 April 2023. The LIR requires cabinet member sign off and the meeting would not be taking place until 25 April 2023. FCC were asked whether the report proposed to be submitted would be made publicly available prior to the meeting. FCC suggested that the agenda for the meeting would be publicly available around one week prior but would clarify at a later date whether the report would also be made available at this time. FCC confirmed it could submit the LIR on 26 April 2023.

Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWCC) echoed FCC's difficulty meeting ecological matters regarded at Deadline 1.

CWCC highlighted that the Applicant had not raised the suggestion to bring forward the updated LIR to Deadline 7. The Applicant noted that bringing forward the requirement of updated LIR to Deadline 7 would give it an opportunity to provide final comments on such documents.

The Applicant proposed four changes to the draft Examination Timetable. The most substantial related to the proposed hearings, week commencing 5 June 2023. This was due to resource constraints with the Drax Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage Project hearings that same week. If the proposed hearings were to remain the week of 5 June 2023, the Applicant requested the Issue Specific Hearings be held on Monday and Tuesday, the Compulsory Acquisition Hearing on Wednesday, and the Open Floor Hearing on Thursday.

The Applicant explained that an Accompanied Site Inspection may require more than one day and could be separate from the week provisionally timetabled for hearings. The Applicant highlighted the proximity of its preferred week for Hearings (22 May 2023) to Deadline 3 but did not consider it prejudiced any Interested Party. This point was echoed by CWCC.

FCC and CWCC confirmed availability for hearings during both the newly suggested week of 22 May 2023 and the provisionally drafted week of 5 June 2023.

The Examination Timetable can be found in the [Rule 8](#) letter published on 27 March 2023.

7. Hearings and Site Inspections

The ExA clarified the purpose of:

- Issue Specific Hearings
- Compulsory Acquisition Hearings
- Open Floor Hearings
- Accompanied Site Inspections
- Unaccompanied Site Inspections

The ExA sought comments on the arrangements for the above events. These were noted and considered by the ExA.

Further information relating to hearings and site inspections can be found in our [Advice Note 8.5](#).

8. Procedural Decisions

The ExA clarified the procedural decisions made under section 89(3) of the PA2008 and asked for any observations.

The Applicant referred to the Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) with a view to limiting expectations, advising it would be unlikely to get an SoCG from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency or UK Health and Security Agency.

The Applicant raised its intention to submit a change request as noted in its Procedural Deadline A submission. The ExA agreed that this could be discussed as a separate agenda item under any other business.

Procedural decisions can be found in Annex E of the [Rule 6 letter](#).