

DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND WITH THE HYNET NORTH WEST HYDROGEN PIPELINE

HyNet Carbon Dioxide Pipeline DCO

Planning Act 2008

The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 – Regulations 5(2)(q)

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STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

This Statement of Common Ground has been prepared and agreed by (1) Liverpool Bay CCS Limited and (2) HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline

Signed

[NAME]

[POSITION]

on behalf of Liverpool Bay CCS Limited

Date: [DATE]

Signed

[NAME]

[POSITION]

on behalf of HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline

Date: [DATE]

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

- 1.1.1. This draft Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared by Liverpool Bay CCS Limited (the Applicant) and HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline.
- 1.1.2. For the purpose of this draft SoCG, the Applicant and HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline will jointly be referred to as the 'Parties'.
- 1.1.3. The purpose of this draft SoCG is to set out the agreement that has been reached between the Parties in respect of a number of matters related to the Development Consent Order (DCO) Proposed Development. It also lists any points on which discussions are ongoing. SoCGs are an established means in the DCO planning process of allowing all Parties to identify and so focus on specific issues that may need to be addressed during the examination.
- 1.1.4. **Chapter 2** of this draft SoCG records the consultation undertaken with the Cadent Hydrogen Project by the Applicant. **Chapter 3** of this draft SoCG sets out the areas of agreement in relation to the above matters, and any areas of ongoing discussion between the Parties.
- 1.1.5. A separate draft SoCG has been prepared by the Applicant for Cadent Gas **[REP4-251]** as a statutory undertaker and asset owner for their existing assets. This SoCG is additional and complimentary to the SoCG between Cadent Gas and the Applicant regarding all other pipelines Cadent Gas manage, apart from the HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline.

1.2. THE DCO PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

- 1.2.1. HyNet (the Project) is an innovative low carbon hydrogen and carbon capture, transport and storage project that will unlock a low carbon economy for the North West of England and North Wales and put the region at the forefront of the UK's drive to Net-Zero. The detail of the project and the DCO Proposed Development can be found in the main DCO documentation. The DCO Proposed Development and this SoCG relate to the onshore CO₂ pipeline element of HyNet only. Other elements of HyNet are subject to separate consenting processes.
- 1.2.2. HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline is a key partner, active in the Project, promoting the hydrogen pipeline element of HyNet, known as the 'HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline'. The DCO Proposed Development impacts HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline primarily as a developer for the proposed HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline.
- 1.2.3. The HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline is similarly being consented under a DCO. The DCO is currently in the pre-application phase, therefore order

limits are not yet confirmed. The Applicant has identified the following Land Plans **[REP4-004]** sheets in which HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline may hold a future planned interest:

Sheet 1, Sheet 1a, Sheet 2, Sheet 3, Sheet 4.

- 1.2.4. A full description of the DCO Proposed Development is detailed in Chapter 3 of the consolidated Environmental Statement (ES) **[REP4-029]**, submitted at Deadline 4. On the 12 July 2023, the ExA accepted the Applicant's Change Request 3, subsequently the description of the development will be updated in accordance with Change Request 3 Environmental Technical Note **[CR3-019]**, towards the end of the Examination.

1.3. TERMINOLOGY

- 1.3.1. In the Issues tables in **Chapter 3** of this draft SoCG, 'Agreed' and 'Not Agreed' indicates a final position, and 'Under Discussion' indicates where these points will be the subject of on-going discussion wherever possible to resolve or refine, the extent of disagreement between the Parties.

2. RECORD OF ENGAGEMENT

- 2.1.1. This chapter provides a summary of the engagement to date between the Applicant and the HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline Project in relation to the DCO Proposed Development.

Table 2-1 – Record of Engagement in relation to the Proposed Development

| Date | Form of Correspondence | Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes |
|---------------------|--|---|
| 16/03/2021- Present | HyNet consortium meetings – online with some face to face. | <p>Key Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project management, technical interface and directorial leadership meetings between HyNet partners held as part of the Industrial Decarbonisation Cluster, including the HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline Project and the Applicant (Held as part of the BEIS Cluster Sequencing Phase 2, Track 1 selected project, with project stewardship by UKRI). • Discussion of the Cadent Gas and the HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline Project's requirements as a Gas Transporter. • Discussion of Applicant's role as a CO₂ T&S network operator. • Discussion of 3rd party pipeline routing to serve Essar's manufacturing site and planned development by Vertex Hydrogen Limited (Vertex). • Discussion and confirmation of CO₂ pipeline routing to service the Stanlow site. • Initial overview of HyNet project and Stanlow AGI location. <p>Discussions and Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmation of the overall architecture of the broader HyNet project and clarification of the HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline Project and the Applicant's roles and responsibilities. • Confirmation of the need for the Stanlow site to contain a key AGI, linked to hydrogen production facilities. |
| 10/01/2022 | Face to Face engineering interface meeting | <p>Key Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access points / other considerations. • High level schedule dates – when both parties are planning installing pipelines. • Data share going forward, how each development can keep up to date with route changes. <p>Discussions and Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parties agree to set up a SharePoint area for the sharing of GIS files to enable both parties to review each other's routes • Parties agree that more regular interface meeting should be organised as both projects progress in design and DCO processes |
| 14/04/2022 | Online engineering interface meeting | <p>Key Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General project updates from both sides <p>Discussions and Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A |

| | | |
|----------------------|---|--|
| 07/06/2022 | Microsoft Teams meeting between Cadent, Wood, CMS UK and the Applicant | <p>Key Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the cumulative impact assessment and inclusion of schemes in EIA <p>Discussions and Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussed the cumulative impact assessment and it was agreed to share a list of HyNet projects considered within the CO₂ pipeline cumulative assessment with the HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline Project team. Follow up meeting to further discuss whether HyNet project has a 'wraparound' document which summarises the cumulative effects of all projects or consensus to be best captured in another way such as a SOCG. • HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline will provide a summary of the residual effects from H2 development and CMS UK will provide an example of 'wraparound document' in its DCO application submission. A subsequent meeting was tabled for 24 June 2022. |
| 30/06/2022 | Microsoft Teams meeting between Wood, CMS UK, Vertex and the Applicant | <p>Key Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the EIA wraparound document <p>Discussions and Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussed the EIA wraparound document, in response to the meeting held on 07 June 2022. The option of a high-level comms document with live table on HyNet website to show all linked applications was discussed and agreed upon and was to be actioned by Progressive Energy as part of its HyNet strategic management role. |
| 17/11/2022 | Online interface meeting | <p>Key Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South of Stanlow pipeline route de-confliction at Chester service road crossing, following construction of SPEN substation. <p>Discussions and Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since route alignment was agreed in principle, SPEN have constructed a substation in the route corridor to enable electric vehicle charging at Chester Services. • Parties have agreed for the HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline Project to re-align the hydrogen centreline to the northwest of the substation, following targeted consultation, to de-risk pipeline construction. |
| | Farm impact assessment call and actions | Please add details of progress |
| 30/09/2022 - Present | Fortnightly HyNet project FEED interface online meetings (integration of activities at Stanlow) | <p>Key Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stanlow AGI area road accesses • Stanlow AGI area layout de-confliction. • South of Stanlow pipeline route de-confliction. • Electrical utility supply • Drainage • Process Safety and Hazard Studies • Schedule integration for construction and commissioning |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | | <p>Discussions and Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The allocation of space between the three AGI owners (for CO₂, Natural Gas and Hydrogen) was broadly agreed, based on Eni proposal. With CO₂ and Natural Gas AGIs sharing the western side and larger Hydrogen AGI to the Eastern side. • Pipelines are constrained by local sites south of the A5117, parties agree that the CO₂ pipelines should be the west and Cadent lines to the east of Little Meadow Caravan Park. • Parties agree that space is sufficient for pipelines to co-habit land to south of Stanlow, with de-confliction of 'placeholder' centrelines. • Stanlow AGI area requires electrical utility provision from Essar Stanlow refinery. Parties agree to jointly support the electrical connection works within Essar Stanlow Refinery to enable local utility provision for the AGI Area. Included alignment on timelines required for commissioning and start-up of the three AGIs. Technical documentation with the proposed solution has been agreed by the Applicant and Cadent. |
| | Please add regular comms and consenting meetings | |

3. ISSUES

3.1.1. This chapter sets out the areas of agreement in relation to specific issues relating to the DCO Proposed Development, and any areas of ongoing discussion between the Parties. The topics discussed between the Applicant and HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline are as follows:

- Engagement, Environmental Statement (ES) & Other Application Documents;
- Design;
- Sharing of data;
- Construction; and
- Operation and long-term rights.

Table 3-1 – Engagement, ES & Other Application Documents

| Ref. | Description of Matter | Current Position | Status |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|--------|
| Engagement | | | |
| HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline 3.1.1 | Engagement | The Parties agree that engagement has been ongoing in the pre-application period (as set out in the record of engagement) and the Applicant has sought to bring forward a design which has had regard to the HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline initial design. Cadent has been formally consulted on the application as required by the Planning Act 2008. | Agreed |
| Land | | | |
| HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline 3.1.2 | Cadent Land Use (other than assets) | HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline agrees that at the time of writing, it holds no land assets as part of the HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline Project. HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline’s existing assets are covered by a separate SoCG. This separate SoCG can be found at “ D.7.2.12 HyNet CO2 SoCG HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline ” [REP4-251]. | Agreed |
| ES | | | |
| HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline 3.1.3 | ES | The HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline Project considers that appropriate regard has been had to its proposals in the cumulative assessment [APP-071] having regard to the level of information available at the time of writing. The HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline Project will also consider cumulative effects of the two projects in its DCO application for the HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline, including any CO2 Pipeline design changes since the application for the DCO Proposed Development was made. | Agreed |
| Other application documents | | | |
| HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline 3.1.4 | Other application documents | HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline agrees that at the time of writing, it holds no land assets as part of the HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline Project. HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline’ existing assets are covered by a separate SoCG. This separate SoCG can be found at “ D.7.2.12 HyNet CO2 SoCG HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline ” [REP4-251]. | Agreed |

Table 3-2 – Issues related to design

| Ref. | Description of Matter | Current Position | Status |
|---|--|---|--------|
| HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline 3.2.1 | Deconfliction of Pipeline Routes | <p>Joint pipeline routing exercises have been undertaken to deconflict the Applicant and the HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline Project 's pipeline routes. This includes the crossing of the A5117 at the Chester Services station.</p> <p>Nonetheless, the DCO Proposed Development and the HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline Project are expected to have overlapping order limits.</p> <p>The Applicant and HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline acknowledge that further work will be required at the detailed design stages of both projects to deconflict the land uses of the overlapping order limits and that this will be subject to further agreement between the two parties before construction.</p> | Agreed |
| HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline 3.2.2 | Pipeline Crossing | <p>The Applicant and HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline have minimised the number of crossings required between both of their pipelines. There will only be one crossing required in the field to the North of the Chester Services station off the M56.</p> <p>The Applicant and HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline agree that the two parties have worked together to develop limits of deviation that are suitable to enable construction and operation of the two s pipelines.</p> <p>The Applicant and HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline acknowledge that both parties and their respective contractors will work together during the detailed design and construction phases to ensure the crossing is designed and executed in a manner which does not impact each other's ability to deliver the project in a safe manner and on time.</p> | Agreed |
| HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline 3.2.3 | Construction Schedules | <p>The Applicant is targeting a 2026-27 construction window, with some preliminary works in 2025 . The HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline Project is targeting a 2026-2027 construction window. Both projects are subject to external influences that may delay or adjust their delivery dates within the statutory timeframe set out by their respective DCOs.</p> <p>The Applicant and HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline acknowledge that detailed deconfliction and management of construction schedules will be required throughout the detailed design and delivery stages of both projects.</p> | Agreed |
| HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline 3.2.4 | Compound Use – South of Stanlow | <p>The Applicant and the HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline have allocated different areas for 'centralised' compounds in the area south of the A5117 within their respective DCO applications. This approach increases flexibility in construction scheduling but may increase landowner impact as both areas are owned by the same party. Detailed design construction/contractors, once on board, will liaise to reduce the impact on the affected landowners at this location as much as possible.</p> | Agreed |
| HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline 3.2.5 | Compound Use – Stanlow Manufacturing Complex | <p>The Applicant and HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline will both be constructing Above Ground Installations (AGIs) within the Stanlow Manufacturing Complex. The Applicant and the HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline Project agree that sufficient space is available within the overlapping order limits to construct both AGIs in sequence. Local Construction Design and Management (CDM) area deconfliction between construction contractors will be required should works overlap in time, as a multi-party interface, these discussions have been ongoing between HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline, Essar and the Applicant.</p> | Agreed |

Table 3-3 – Issues related to construction

| Ref. | Description of Matter | Current Position | Status |
|---|---|--|---------------|
| HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline 3.3.1 | Common Agricultural land | The Applicant and HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline will require exclusive and separate pipeline construction 'spreads' (right of way) to enable safe construction of either asset should construction activities be required in parallel. | Agreed |
| HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline 3.3.2 | Stanlow Manufacturing Complex | The Applicant and HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline also agree that access arrangements within SMC will be shared. Agreement has been made with SMC on access arrangements for construction via a new gate off Pool Lane. This will include a new gate house and access road within SMC and will enable access to the Applicant and to HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline Project for future operations. | Agreed |
| HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline 3.3.3 | Overlap of Cadent pipeline and Applicant Compound | The HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline Project pipeline corridor will traverse the southern part of the Stanlow Centralised Construction Compound included as part of the DCO Proposed Development. HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline will seek to work with the Applicant to reach an agreement on working practices over the coming months where the pipeline right of way / limit of deviation and construction compound working areas interact and/or simultaneous operations occur. | Agreed |

Table 3-4 – Issues related to operation and long-term rights

| Ref. | Description of Matter | Current Position | Status |
|---|------------------------------|---|------------------|
| HYNET North West Hydrogen Pipeline 3.4.1 | Protective Provisions | The Parties are currently undertaking ongoing discussions in relation to the Protective Provisions. | Under Discussion |