



Meeting note

Project name	HyNet Carbon Dioxide Pipeline
File reference	EN070007
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	23 August 2022
Meeting with	Liverpool Bay CCS Limited
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.

HyNet project update

On 12 August 2022, BEIS released the [Phase 2 cluster sequencing update](#). Six HyNet sites have been identified as eligible for Government support; one of which is Padeswood Cement Works in Flintshire, which would be served by the proposed Carbon Dioxide Pipeline. The Applicant stated this demonstrates HyNet's strength in its architecture and its importance as a track 1 cluster project.

The Applicant noted it held successful engagement visits/ tour with senior officials from BEIS, Climate Change Committee and Ofgem in August. The Applicant explained this was well received and allowed attendees to gain context on the consortium.

The Applicant stated the hydrogen production plant (Vertex) is still within the Town and County Planning Act 1990 (TCPA) determination process, the hydrogen pipeline (Cadent) Development Consent Order (DCO) completed non-statutory consultation and is now in Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) production and preparing for statutory consultation. The Applicant further explained the Hydrogen storage (Inovyn) is in FEED and considering next steps for a Non-Material Change (NMC) application process for its existing DCO.

The Applicant confirmed CF Fertilisers completed its consultation process and confirmed its intent to close the Ince facility, although this does not change the impact of what the HyNet project is going to achieve.

The Inspectorate queried if there are any timescales on the Vertex TCPA determination. The Applicant confirmed it will review and update the Inspectorate after the meeting.

Outcome of further targeted consultation

Since the last meeting, the Applicant has held three rounds of targeted consultation.

- **Round one** - ran from 17 June to 19 July 2022. The Applicant noted it consulted on 24 minor design changes and received 46 responses.
- **Round two** - ran from 25 June to 25 July 2022. The Applicant stated letters were sent to approximately 10 landowners on six order limit changes captured in round one consultation. The Applicant confirmed that no responses were received.
- **Round three** - ran from 22 July to 19 August 2022. The Applicant confirmed it consulted on five further changes (two drainage and three visibility splay changes). The Applicant stated it consulted with relevant landowners and Local Lead Flood Authorities (LLFA) and received five responses.

The Applicant confirmed the targeted consultation strategy was agreed with Flintshire County Council (FCC) and Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWCC).

As part of the Applicant's round three consultation, it made minor amendments to the order limits to remove optionality. The Inspectorate queried if any optionality on the routeing will be taken forward into DCO application. The Applicant confirmed that the route has been finalised and the DCO will not include routeing optionality.

Programme Update

The Applicant confirmed it intends to submit its DCO application in a two-week window (26 September - 7 October 2022). Its current target submission date is on 30 September 2022. The Inspectorate reminded the Applicant to submit its GIS shapefile at least 10 working days before DCO submission.

The Applicant also confirmed that the submission of the TCPA application has slipped slightly; the pre-application consultation will take place in early Q4 2022 and the application will be submitted later in Q4 2022.

Planning Update

The Applicant stated it plans to submit the DCO application via WeTransfer. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to carry out a test of the link and required access with the Inspectorate in advance of the submission.

The Applicant confirmed it will take a digital by default approach and submit in compliance with the Inspectorate's Advice Note six.

The Applicant explained it continues to hold monthly joint Local Planning Authority (LPA) meetings and it is holding a separate workshop with the LPAs in early September to discuss the dDCO.

Environmental Update

The Applicant confirmed its Environmental Statement (ES) is in the final stages of production and is undergoing internal reviews. The Applicant explained the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (OCEMP) will be a standalone document which signposts to the Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments (REAC) document which will also be a standalone DCO deliverable.

The Applicant confirmed it has confidential documents that will be submitted as standalone appendices and easily identified.

The Applicant confirmed all ecological surveys are complete apart from bats, otters and water vole.

The Inspectorate queried if the Applicant's ES explains why the Inspectorate should consider the ES to be adequate if the surveys are not finalised. The Applicant stated the ES will contain a justification as to why this would be the case in the absence of the completed surveys.

The Inspectorate advised it is helpful if the Applicant tabled consultation comments/comments in the Environmental Statement and how it responded to them at the start of each chapter. The Inspectorate suggested that evidence of agreement with statutory consultees on key points, for instance copies of emails, should be included in the ES if possible.

The Applicant confirmed it is working on the Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) but it is likely that these will be submitted after the acceptance stage but ahead of the Examination. The Inspectorate noted that many organisations are reluctant to sign SoCG until they have seen the full application.

Compulsory Acquisition and Land Rights

The Applicant explained there are approx. 512 land plots identified in the Book of Reference (BoR) and this covers approx. 574 different landowners.

The Applicant provided an update on its progress on agreements with landowners. The Applicant stated Heads of Terms have been sent to landowners with further ones being sent soon to cover above ground elements.

The Applicant stated Crown Land has been identified within the order limits as well as Special Category and Statutory Undertaker land. In regard to the Special Category land, the Applicant noted one plot is impacted by the new pipeline and three plots on the existing pipeline route. The Applicant confirmed s42b letters have been sent during consultation and is engaging in ongoing discussions with asset holders around areas that would be affected by the pipeline.

The Inspectorate queried if the Applicant is seeking replacement land for the common identified as Special Category Land. The Applicant confirmed it is not as further research confirmed it is no longer affected and the Applicant will be using HDD techniques.

Specific decisions/ follow-up required?

The following actions were agreed:

- The Applicant to check and update on Vertex TCPA determination timescales;
- The Applicant has agreed to carry out a trial run of WeTransfer link with the Inspectorate ahead of DCO submission.