



Preliminary Meeting Note

Application:	Viking CCS Pipeline Project
Reference:	EN070008
Time and date:	26 March 2024 10:00AM
Venue:	Stallingborough Grange Hotel, Riby Road, Grimsby, DN41 8BU

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

David Wallis (DW) welcomed those present and introduced himself as the lead member of the Panel of Examining Inspectors, the Examining Authority (ExA) and Jonathan Gorst and Alex Jack as panel members to examine the Viking CCS Pipeline Project application.

The ExA explained the appointment was made by delegation from the Secretary of State (SoS) for the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on **28 November 2023**.

DW explained that the ExA would be examining the application made by Chrysaor Production (UK) Limited ('the Applicant') before making a recommendation to the Secretary of State who will decide whether an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed project, which is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), should be made.

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

DW 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.

DW invited Applicant and their representatives and local authority representatives present for Lincolnshire County Council, Northeast Lincolnshire County Council and North Lincolnshire Council to introduce themselves.

Mr. Strawson asked a question regarding the line of pipeline and deviations. The Examining Authority explained the purpose of the PM and advised Mr. Strawson his concerns could be raised with the Applicant directly or at a future stage in the process.

2. Audio recording

The video recording of this 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 gave an overview of work it has carried out in the Pre-Examination period.

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

The ExA confirmed that the 2011 original versions of the National Policy Statements (NPS) for energy (NPS-EN1) and for gas (NPS-EN4) are the relevant policy statements for this project. The recently designated NPS-EN1 and NPS-EN4 that came into force January 2024 whilst not policy for this application is still relevant.

The Examining Authority acknowledged Relevant Representations received and reviewed, and further [Additional Submissions](#) which the Examining Authority has used their discretion to accept.

At the conclusion of the Examination the ExA will provide a Recommendation Report for the Secretary of State no later **than 26 December 2024**.

5. Initial Assessment of Principal Issues

The ExA shared Annex C of [Rule 6](#) Letter.

The ExA explained the purpose of the Initial Assessment of Principal Issues (section 88 of the PA2008), which can be found in [Annex C](#) of the [Rule 6](#) letter of **15 February 2024** and asked for any observations on them.

The ExA invited comment on the Initial Assessment of Principal Issues identified. Lincolnshire County Council requested the list of Principle Issues is kept under review pending Local Impact Reports from relevant Local Authorities. The Applicant commented they are content with the Initial Assessment of Principal Issues identified and should other matters come up that they should be addressed.

6. Examination Timetable

The ExA outlined the Examination Timetable and welcomed suggestions from the parties in attendance to amend the draft Examination Timetable contained in [Annex D](#) of [Rule 6 letter](#).

The ExA outlined the process for change requests and acknowledged the change request received from the Applicant that can be viewed in the Examination Library [[AS-](#)

[038 to AS-054](#)]. The ExA invited the Applicant to set out the matters contained within the change request and set out any potential effects on the examination timetable. The Applicant summarised the need for the change request and confirmed this is set out in more detail in its **26 February 2024** letter. The ExA confirmed it had not yet reached a decision on the change request.

All comments received were noted by the ExA and considerations will be reflected in the Rule 8 Letter.

The Examination Timetable can be found in the Rule 8 letter published on **Wednesday 3 April 2024**.

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 explained that the Applicant has proposed a draft itinerary for an Accompanied Site Inspection of two locations: Immingham Gas facility and Threddlethorpe Gas Terminal. The Applicant confirmed that access to private land could be arranged, as necessary.

The ExA sought comments on the arrangements for the above events. Comments from the Applicant requesting blended events (both in person and virtual) were noted. The ExA sought clarification from the Applicant on its request to discuss the deadline of a Comparative Development Consent Order (DCO).

The Applicant outlined the technological challenges in providing at stages of the timetable a 'composite' of the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) showing the changes of the DCO throughout the Examination process. The Applicant requested a composite be provided at key deadlines, namely deadline one, three and seven. This request was noted.

The ExA sought comments from attendees on points raised by the Applicant. All local authorities cited no issues with blended hearings. Lincolnshire County Council and North Lincolnshire County Council commented that they did not have any objections to the Applicant's proposed deadlines for composite DCO submissions. All comments were noted.

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

No comments were made by any of the parties in attendance. The ExA thanked those in attendance and confirmed once the meeting is closed the Examination of the application and the testing of evidence will begin. The Inspectorate will shortly send out the Rule 8 letter setting out the Examination timetable and the ExA's first written questions and request for information.

The Preliminary Meeting was closed.