Viking CCS Pipeline DCO Application

Response to the Examining Authority's first written questions and requests for information (ExQ1)

1.7.38: The Applicant has provided Protective Provisions in Schedule 9 of the dDCO [AS-008]. If these provisions are not acceptable, please provide either your preferred wording for the Protective Provisions or mark-up revisions to the Applicant's proposed Protective Provisions.

Background

Uniper UK Limited ("**UUKL**")'s relevant representation **[RR-114]** was made on the basis that, in a number of locations, the proposed CO_2 pipeline route runs very close to, or overlaps with, UUKL's high pressure natural gas pipeline that runs northwards from Theddlethorpe to Killingholme, North Lincolnshire (the "**Uniper Pipeline**"). Construction and operation of the Viking CCS pipeline therefore poses potential health, safety, security and environmental risks to the operation and maintenance of UUKL's existing infrastructure and affects a number of land plots that UUKL has an interest in.

UUKL is an indirect subsidiary of Uniper SE, an international energy company with activities in more than 40 countries that aims for its installed power generating capacity to be more than 80% zero-carbon by 2030 and completely carbon-neutral by 2040. Hydrogen projects in the UK are an essential part of implementing Uniper SE's new strategy and the Killingholme site has huge potential as an energy transformation hub, powering the Humber region and beyond, with the right combination of expertise and location to deliver low-carbon energy solutions, including hydrogen production and supply. The Humber H_2ub® (Blue) project, in particular, is a proposed large scale, low carbon hydrogen production facility on the site that will see up to 720 megawatts of blue hydrogen production, using gas reformation technology with carbon capture and storage ("**CCS**"). As the Viking CCS Pipeline could facilitate the transport of the captured CO_2 to suitable storage locations, UUKL is strongly supportive of the Applicant's project.

Protective Provisions

It is essential from UUKL's perspective to agree an appropriate form of Protective Provisions ("**PPs**") with the Applicant. As noted in our comments on a draft Statement of Common Ground received from the Applicant, there has not yet been sufficient consultation over the wording of the PPs. It is UUKL's position that the standard PPs included in the Part 1 of Schedule 9 to the draft DCO **[AS-039]** would cause serious detriment to UUKL's undertaking. As owner and operator of an operational power station and high pressure gas pipeline, it is essential for UUKL to have oversight and control over any works occurring in close proximity to its assets to ensure the continued safe operation of its power station and pipeline. UUKL's assets are critical national infrastructure and include the Uniper Pipeline, the Theddlethorpe Distribution Centre Above Ground Installation (AGI) and Block Valve Stations near the Lincolnshire villages of Fulstow and Riby.

UUKL will provide the Applicant with a draft of its preferred PPs in due course and is committed to working with the Applicant to secure mutually acceptable PPs for inclusion in Schedule 9 to the draft DCO.

Other concerns

In addition, there are a number of land issues arising from the Applicant's DCO application that must be resolved so that the construction and operation of the Viking CCS pipeline does not pose an adverse safety risk to UUKL's existing gas pipeline and infrastructure. Whilst we have been working with the Applicant over land referencing, and this is reflected in entries in both the latest Book of Reference [**AS-045]** and Compulsory Acquisition Tracker [**AS-030]** , this work needs to be progressed to give a much clearer common understanding of the land ownership and lease arrangements that exist for each of the identified land plots. For instance, the Book of Reference lists Uniper UK Gas Limited in

Parts 1, 2 and 3 in respect of several dozen plots; it is not clear presently that Uniper UK Gas Limited should be identified in respect of each plot.