



Meeting note

Project name	V - Net Zero - Humber Lincolnshire Carbon Connector Pipeline
File reference	EN070008
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate (the 'Inspectorate')
Date	21 October 2022
Meeting with	Chrysaor Production (U.K.) Limited (the 'Applicant')
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.

Update to the Proposed Development

The Applicant confirmed there had been no change to the project's objectives, with it planning to transport ten million tonnes of CO₂ offshore using the pipeline. The Humber region is the largest emitter of CO₂ in the UK, and the pipeline would allow the region to be connected to an existing offshore pipeline, for onward transport and storage in the Viking storage area offshore, contributing to the Government's Net Zero objectives.

The Applicant confirmed the project has changed its name to Viking CCS (previously known as V Net Zero) to create a stronger emphasis on carbon storage capabilities. The Inspectorate confirmed it will update the project page to reflect this change. The Inspectorate queried how changing the project name will affect the Scoping Opinion, to which the Applicant explained the change of name won't affect the scope of the project, but they will consider the relevant EIA regulations to ensure the change has been clearly captured throughout the Environmental Statement.

The Applicant explained there had been changes to the route corridor, because of feedback from the non-statutory consultation conducted in Spring 2022, and ongoing work by the project team. The Applicant received requests to move away from built up areas, resulting in changes affecting approximately 40% of the length of the route corridor. A further consultation in September/October 2022 has been carried out to include the new route corridor. Thus far the overall response to the new route corridor has been positive. Some of the changes made are:

- Stallingborough and Healing area: The proposed route corridor has moved further west.
- Grainsby and North Thoresby area: The proposed route corridor has moved west, further away from the villages.
- Covenham St. Mary area: The proposed route corridor has moved west to be further away from the villages of Covenham St Bartholomew, Covenham St Mary, Yarbrough and Alvingham.
- South Cockerington and Grimoldby area: The proposed route corridor has shifted east further away from the villages
- Theddlethorpe: The route corridor has been moved north, further away from a primary school.

The Inspectorate asked if the Applicant has engaged with Local Authorities (LA), with the Applicant confirming they had begun discussions with LAs and have agreed to set up Planning Performance Agreements with East Lindsey District Council and Lincolnshire County Council. The applicant reported that meetings have been held with LAs during October to provide an update on the progress of the scheme as follows:

- Lincolnshire County Council and the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) – 17th October 2022.
- North Lincolnshire Council – 17th October 2022.
- East Lindsey District Council – 19th October 2022
- North East Lincolnshire Council – 19th October 2022

The Applicant explained it intends to re-utilise a former gas terminal brownfield site at Theddlethorpe to provide a connection for CO₂ from on-shore to the off-shore pipeline. The facility at Theddlethorpe will also have key safety functions such as metering, leak detection and a pipeline cathodic protection system, along with pipeline isolation valves, pig reception and launching. The Inspectorate asked if any coastal elements will be disrupted by the facility, in which the Applicant explained they will be conducting no work around coastal margins therefore will not be included within the Environmental Statement. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to make it clear within the Development Consent Orders (DCO) of the works being onshore, and that the offshore element of the scheme will be sought through a different consents process and will not feature within this consent.

The Applicant presented an indicative visualisation of three proposed Block Valve Stations (BVS) which will be shared at the statutory consultation.

The Applicant confirmed it has identified temporary construction compounds. Two options located in the North off the A1077, two options located in the central area of the route and a potential third compound located south of the route at the former gas terminal site.

EIA Update

The Applicant explained that they are gathering information on ground conditions and potential contaminated land. A utilities search has already been conducted which has informed the proposed pipeline route within the DCO.

The Inspectorate advised that the applicant consider traffic movements during the construction phase for the delivery of pipe sections. The Applicant advised that this will be considered as part of the Transport Assessment and Traffic Management Plan for the scheme.

Stakeholder engagement to date

The Applicant has conducted non-statutory consultation in the spring and autumn 2022, both of which included in person and virtual consultation events and a virtual consultation room.

The Applicant explained it is conducting its Statutory Consultation from 22 November 2022 to 24 January 2023. The Statutory Consultation will have in-person events set up, along with an online webinar in January 2023. The Inspectorate asked the Applicant if they could take a record of attendance figures as it will be useful information to help identify hotspots for local engagement.

Update to submission date

The Applicant explained they would like their DCO submission date to take place in the Spring or Summer 2023, and are looking to get a decision by 2024, with construction commencing in 2025.

AOB

The Inspectorate asked the Applicant how much compulsory acquisition will be required, in which the Applicant stated it will be kept to a minimum.

The Inspectorate suggested that another progress meeting between the Inspectorate and Applicant would be useful following the end of the Statutory Consultation period.