

# H2Teesside Project

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN070009

Land within the boroughs of Redcar and Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees, Teesside and within the borough of Hartlepool, County Durham

The H2 Teesside Order

Document Reference: 8.11.8 Response to ExQ1 Cumulative and Combined Effects

Planning Act 2008



**Applicant: H2 Teesside Ltd**

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Overview**

1.1.1 This document has been prepared on behalf of H2 Teesside Limited (the 'Applicant'). It relates to an application (the 'Application') for a Development Consent Order (a 'DCO'), that was submitted to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero ('DESNZ') on 25 March 2024, under Section 37 of 'The Planning Act 2008' (the 'PA 2008') in respect of the H2Teesside Project (the 'Proposed Development').

1.1.2 The Application has been accepted for examination. The Examination commenced on 29 August 2024.

### **1.2 The Purpose and Structure of this document**

1.2.1 The purpose of this document is to set out the Applicant's responses to the Examining Authority's ExQ1 on Cumulative and Combined Effects which were issued on 4 September 2024 [PD-008]. This document contains a table which includes the reference number for each relevant question, the ExA's comments and questions and the Applicant's responses to each of those questions.

**Table 1-1 Applicant's Responses to Response to ExQ1 Cumulative and Combined Effects**

EXQ1	QUESTION TO:	QUESTION:	RESPONSE:
Q1.8.1	Applicant	<p>Other Development – Demolition/            Paragraph 3.3.4 of ES Chapter 3 (Description of Existing Area) [APP-055] states that existing structures on the Main Site will be demolished by South Tees Development Corporation (STDC) prior to the Proposed Development commencing. Paragraph 3.5.2 states that as of March 2024 much of the infrastructure has been demolished or is being dismantled.</p> <p>Bearing the above in mind, the Applicant is asked:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to provide an update on the demolition works that have been undertaken on the site to date and provide commentary whether the current site reflects the baseline as assessed in the ES;</li> <li>explain how, throughout the examination, the demolition works dovetail into the Proposed Development, as set out in the ES, ensuring that effects and timescales remain separate; and</li> <li>how the ExA can be satisfied, throughout the examination, the Proposed Development and demolition works will not result in unacceptable combined and/ or cumulative effects.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demolition works are being led by STDC. Above ground demolition at the Main Site is largely complete, save for the core of the former Blast Furnace, in the northeast of the Main Site. Subsurface demolition has recently been completed for the southern area of the site which will include parts of the Proposed Development Site. Further information about sub surface demolition in the north of the Main Site is expected to be provided to the Applicant from STDC.</li> </ol> <p>The Applicant considers the current site continues to reflect the baseline as assessed in ES Chapter 3 [APP-055] Paragraph 3.5.2 which states that “As of March 2024, much of the site infrastructure including industrial buildings and overhead pipes has either been demolished or is in the process of being dismantled. A combination of hardstanding and road networks remain on the Main Site, surrounded by informal vegetation (primarily grass), with occasional shrubs and small trees.”</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ES Chapter 3 [APP-055] Paragraph 3.3.4 states that “Existing structures currently located within the Main Site will be demolished to clear the site (by South Tees Development Corporation (STDC)), prior to and irrespective of the commencement of works associated with the Proposed Development.”</li> </ol> <p>The Applicant can confirm that the relationship between demolition works and the Proposed Development construction is a simple relationship in which the demolition works will take place irrespective of the Proposed Development going ahead or not, and the Proposed Development will only commence construction following the completion of demolition works.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ExA can be satisfied that no unacceptable combined and / or cumulative effects will occur between the demolition works and the construction of the Proposed Development because they will be completed at distinctly separate periods of time, with the construction of the Proposed Development commencing only when the demolition works are complete. The methodology for ES Chapter 23 [APP-076] notes that for an Other Development to be taken forward in the cumulative assessment to the short list stage (Stage 2), one of the factors considered is temporal scope (paragraph 23.3.24). Therefore, as there is no temporal overlap, the Applicant considers that there is no potential for combined and/or cumulative effects.</li> </ol>
Q1.8.2	Applicant	<p>Other Developments.</p> <p>For ease of reference, please add a table insert to Figure 23-2 which shows information already included in Appendix 23A to detail the other developments highlighted on that plan. The table column headings requested are ID; Planning Authority; Applicant and Scheme Title; Timescale Summary; and Status.</p>	<p>The Applicant is currently preparing an updated Cumulative and Combined Effects Assessment. The Applicant has not been able to update Figure 23-2 [APP-181] in the timeframe as requested. The update would require a table showing information for the 235 sites listed in Appendix 23A, which will not be able to be shown on one figure. Furthermore, the updates to the Cumulative and Combined Effects Assessment (which are explained in the response to FWQ 1.8.3 below), will result in additional sites to be shown on an amended Figure 23-2 [APP-181]. The Applicant proposes to submit all updates to Figure 23-2 [APP-181] at Deadline 5.</p> <p>The Applicant notes that to meet this request it would be necessary to split Figure 23-2 into approximately 24 sheets to allow an insert table on each with the requested information. The Applicant can do this for Deadline 5 if this is considered agreeable by the ExA, but would be grateful for confirmation that this approach is still wanted, in light of that context as it will take some preparation to complete.</p>
Q1.8.3	Applicant	Explanation.	<p>The Applicant is currently preparing an updated Cumulative and Combined Effects Assessment. It is anticipated that this will be submitted into the Examination at Deadline 5.</p>

EXQ1	QUESTION TO:	QUESTION:	RESPONSE:
		<p>Paragraph 23.3.19 of ES Chapter 23 (Cumulative and Combined Effects) [APP-076] states that the long list of developments was updated up to a cut-off point of 1 November 2023. It does not state whether the Applicant proposes to keep the list under review during the Examination.</p> <p>Bearing the above in mind, please explain the steps that it will take to keep information about other developments used in the cumulative effects assessment (ES Chapter 23 [APP-076]) under review, including how any changes would be addressed and reported to the examination.</p>	<p>A re-review of all Other Developments currently captured within the Long List present in Appendix 23A [APP-221] to account for any updates to the status of the respective planning applications is also being conducted as part of this update. This will be reported to the Examination in the format of an updated Chapter 23 and its relevant figures and appendices, thus superseding the versions that were submitted with the DCO Application [APP-076] [APP-180 to APP-182] [APP-221 to APP-225].</p> <p>The updated Assessment will also account for the changes set out in the Change Notification, if accepted into Examination by the Inspectorate.</p>
Q1.8.4	Applicant	<p>Update.</p> <p>Please provide an updated cumulative effects assessment that considers the proposed Teesside Flexible Regas Port national significant infrastructure project, for which a Scoping Opinion was adopted in April 2024 and which is located within the Applicant's zone of influence for cumulative effects (as set out in Table 23-1 of ES Chapter 23 (Cumulative and Combined Effects) [APP-076].</p>	<p>The Applicant can confirm that the proposed Teesside Flexible Regas Port will be included within the updated Cumulative and Combined Effects Assessment, anticipated to be submitted into the Examination at Deadline 5.</p>
Q1.8.5	LAs (HBC, RCBC and STBC), together with any relevant Authority/ Body	<p>View Sought.</p> <p>ES Appendix 23D (Stage 4 - Assessment of Cumulative and Combined Effects) [APP-224] presents a summary of the impact, mitigation and effect conclusion by aspect. It includes cumulative effects assessment with the NZT project (onshore and offshore components), upon which the Proposed Development is partly reliant (eg for CO2 export for the carbon capture component and potentially process water discharge via its outfall to Tees Bay). The cumulative water quality assessment for the Proposed Development and NZT has been informed by hydrodynamic dispersion modelling, which is described in ES Appendix 9B (Water Quality Modelling Report) [APP-193], whilst ES Appendix 23E (Socio-economic Cumulative Assessment) [APP-225] provides a detailed assessment of socio-economic cumulative effects for the Proposed Development together with the NZT and HyGreen projects.</p> <p>Do you agree with the plans or projects that have been included within the cumulative effects assessment (ES Chapter 23) (Cumulative and Combined Effects) [APP-076]?</p>	n/a