

The Planning Inspectorate
[via Planning Inspectorate website]

Our ref: NA/2024/116840/02-L01
Your ref: EN070009
Date: 21 October 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

**H2TEESSIDE PROJECT – ENVIRONMENT AGENCY COMMENTS ON DEADLINE
2 SUBMISSIONS
LAND EITHER SIDE OF THE RIVER TEES WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF
REDCAR AND CLEVELAND AND STOCKTON-ON-TEES ON TEESSIDE AND
THE BOROUGH OF HARTLEPOOL IN COUNTY DURHAM**

Please find enclosed the Environment Agency's (EA) comments on the Applicants Deadline 2 submissions, which were uploaded to the planning inspectorate website on 19 September 2024.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding this letter.

Yours faithfully,

Cameron Chandler
Planning Advisor

REP2-003 H2 Teesside Limited 2.4a - Integrated Works Plans

This document helps to provide more clarity on the land uses associated with the works on one consolidated map. The key still uses “*Work No. 6A.1 - Hydrogen Distribution Network - Overground and Underground Pipelines*”, meaning it is not clear at this stage which of the two will be used in these areas. There will be different flood risks associated with underground pipeline corridors and overground pipelines in Flood Zone 3. This should be confirmed by the applicant. The plans also continue to identify areas of temporary storage that will be in flood zones. As previously discussed, this will require a permit/disapplication and additional mitigation will be required to ensure no increase in risk.

We previously flagged for information to the applicant in our Relevant Representations response, dated 1 July 2024, of a site that is currently being investigated under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Reviewing this, we wish to make the applicant aware that our response included an incorrect grid reference. The site was previously known as Seal Sands Chemicals Company (SSC) and the correct grid reference is NZ 53843 24721. For information, we can confirm that this area adjacent to Work No. 6A.1 - Hydrogen Distribution Network - Overground and Underground Pipelines, includes a Part 2A inspection area.

REP2-028 H2 Teesside Limited 8.11.10 Response to ExQ1 Geology Hydrogeology and Land Contamination

A list of intrusive ground investigations (GI) to be completed has been included in this document. It is unclear if the area adjacent to the Part 2A inspection site is included.

Q1.10.8 within this document asks about the Part 2A inspection area, with the response stating the site is not being investigated under Part 2A. This is incorrect, and as flagged above, could be due to the EA providing an inaccurate grid reference in our Relevant Representations response. The correct grid reference is NZ 53843 24721 and the original site was known as Seal Sands Chemicals Company (SSC), rather than the current owner Vertellus.

REP2-037 H2 Teesside Limited 8.13 - Order Width Limit Explanatory Note

From a flood risk perspective, we support the use of Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) methods, as it will minimise surface disruption as well as ensure that ground levels remain unchanged throughout the process.

However, an increase in corridor width could have potential flood risk implications. We understand the need for a wider corridor width whilst GI has not been conducted, as it allows for wider flexibility for the location of the drilling path, however, if located near a flood defence, a narrower corridor width would be preferred as it can be more closely managed to ensure no damage or destabilisation to any flood defense infrastructure.

Final drill routes and methods should be included in the Construction Environment Management Plan or other relevant document and shared with the Environment Agency for approval.