

H2TEESSIDE DCO APPLICATION

NATARA GLOBAL LIMITED Interested Party Reference number: 20049369

SUMMARY OF ORAL REPRESENTATION – Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 13/11/2024

My name is Mrs Sarah Gillie and I am a Partner at Baker Rose Consulting LLP and I am representing Natara Global Limited.

My client runs a manufacturing, storage and distribution facility for natural extracts and resins and synthetic aromachemicals. The Property is on the south side of Belasis Avenue, Billingham. Powers are sought by the Applicant for temporary possession, which will result in the occupation of Natara's main operational yard area (plots 2/12, 2/16 and 2/17 on the Land Plans); and powers for the permanent acquisition of new rights, which include over Natara's main site access (plots 2/13, 2/15 and 2/23).

Our client does not object to the application in principle but maintains a holding objection due to its concern that the unfettered exercise of the powers sought over the Property, if granted, would conflict with its operations to an extent that could render the site inoperable for the period it is required for the H2T construction period, currently estimated at 7 weeks. This would result in serious supply chain and financial consequence for the business.

The site has the capacity to operate 24 hours a day, 5 days a week and includes regular HGV movements in and out and constant movements through the yard including transport of hazardous and flammable materials. There are obvious practical and safety risks of uncontrolled interference with these activities.

We had requested that protective provisions be included on the face of the DCO and our client is willing to enter into a contractual agreement for the temporary and permanent land rights the Applicant needs for the project.

We are pleased to have had a site meeting with the Applicant's project team on 12th September to discuss the interactions between the Project and our client's operations and as a result we see there is potential for the interference due to temporary possession to be managed through agreement of construction and logistics management plans and protocols.

We received a draft set of protective provisions late last week on Friday 8th November and from initial review these appear to be headed in the right direction; however the acceptability of these to our client will be subject to further detailed review which we are currently undertaking and further negotiation as necessary.

We also on Monday received an updated draft set of Heads of Terms for agreements for the construction works site and permanent easement. Again we are still in the process of reviewing these. We are hopeful that we can work with the Applicant to agree the protections and agreements our client needs to remove its holding objection which remains at this time and we reserve the right to make further representations to the examination as may be required to ensure the protections and agreements are satisfactorily delivered. We encourage the Applicant to step up the pace of negotiations so we have the best chance of succeeding in this joint objective.

Finally we note with interest the oral representation on behalf of CF Fertilisers earlier during this hearing, in which the need for the branch of the proposed Hydrogen Distribution Network (HDN) (Work No. 6) into the CF Fertilisers site was questioned. Certainly, as already mentioned by my client's representative Mr Nick Pennell earlier in this hearing, the re-consideration of this aspect of the Project, either to avoid this branch of the HDN altogether, or at least to use the existing eastern pipe bridge for this connection, rather than the adjacent one to the west, would benefit our client by considerably reducing the extent its Property is required for the Project construction and thus the potential for conflict with Natara's operations. We have raised this point in previous representations. We trust that the both the base requirement for this section of the HDN branch and the options analysis underpinning the land requirements, including bridge selection, if it is to proceed, will be appropriately tested by the examination.