



## Meeting note

<b>Project name</b>	H2Teesside
<b>File reference</b>	EN070009
<b>Status</b>	<b>Final</b>
<b>Author</b>	The Planning Inspectorate
<b>Date</b>	14 November 2023
<b>Meeting with</b>	H2Teesside Limited
<b>Venue</b>	Microsoft Teams
<b>Meeting objectives</b>	Project Update Meeting
<b>Circulation</b>	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.

### Project Description

The Proposed Development has a target production of 1.2 GW of low carbon hydrogen by 2030 and will be developed in two phases, each up to 600MW. The Proposed Development will reform natural gas into hydrogen and carbon dioxide which will be transported using Northern Endurance Partnership (NEP) infrastructure on Teesside for safe storage in the Endurance aquifer, beneath the North Sea.

The Applicant stated that raw water will be supplied from Northumbrian Water Limited (NWL). It is also exploring an option for recycling of effluent water.

The carbon capture technology is pre-combustion amine-based absorption-regeneration with an anticipated design carbon capture rate in excess of 95%.

The production facility at the main site will require a hydrogen pipeline, approximately 28km in length, to transport the hydrogen to potential industrial offtakers around Teesside.

The Applicant discussed its plans for effluent management, including either Minimalised Liquid Drainage (MLD) taken off site for disposal or discharge of process effluent to the Net Zero Teesside outfall in Tees Bay which is predicted to be approximately 96m<sup>3</sup>/day.

The Inspectorate queried timescales for other projects in the NEP and the Applicant stated that a final investment decision would be made after the Secretary of State's Decision on the nearby Net Zero Teesside Project in early 2024. It is envisaged that the projects timescales are aligned for a 2028 pipeline build, with a decision due on the Endurance offshore project, by the relevant consenting body, in 2024.

## **Red Line Boundary**

The Applicant discussed efforts to refine the working widths of the hydrogen network, extending from production to various offtakers. It noted that the boundary had generally reduced from scoping stage but there were also some minor changes to incorporate land required for mitigation.

The Inspectorate enquired about whether the red line boundary will affect designated or environmentally sensitive areas. The Applicant stated that most of the changes to narrow the red line boundary have developed from the optionality presented during consultation and it is making efforts to balance construction effects with managing environmentally sensitive areas. The Applicant confirmed that generally, the refinement of the boundary had resulted in the Proposed Development moving further away from sensitive areas.

The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to be mindful that all optioneering decisions are articulated in the Environmental Statement (ES), which should include a description of Alternatives in accordance with the EIA Regulations.

The Inspectorate recommended clearly explaining any red line boundary changes from scoping stage in the Consultation Report. The Applicant also advised that it would check the list of consultation bodies from scoping stage to confirm that changes in the boundary have not resulted in the need for additional bodies to be consulted.

The Inspectorate noted that the changes to the Proposed Development include a reduction in the number of crossings over the River Tees (from two at scoping to one) and queried whether there would be any implications in respect of underwater noise impacts. The Applicant confirmed that this is not recognised as a principal issue and hasn't identified this as a key risk.

## **Statutory Consultation**

Statutory Consultation ran from 14 September to 26 October 2023 and included s42 letters to prescribed persons, site notices, s47 community consultation and s48 publicity. The Applicant detailed the variety of consultation methods used including publicity via notices, press releases, six face-to-face events and a webinar (which was well attended).

The Inspectorate recommended including website metrics, such as the quantity of people accessing it, in the Consultation Report to reflect the level of interest and engagement. All consultation methods have been agreed in the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) have responded with wider engagement on hydrogen and the associated risk assessments and will attempt to create interim guidelines. Protection provisions discussions are ongoing with various stakeholders.

## **Project Programme**

The Applicant will commence additional consultation on changes to the red line boundary from December 2023 to January 2024 with s42 consultees, including landowners.

The Applicant aims to submit the DCO application in Q1 2024.

## **Draft Document Review**

The Applicant intends to submit the draft DCO (dDCO), draft Explanatory Memorandum, a report to inform the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) and works and land plans for draft document review and recognised that PINs need six to eight weeks to complete the review.

The Inspectorate recommended submitting a 'Design Approach' document, or the equivalent documents, to pull together the design against the National Policy Statements (NPS) and planning policy, cross referencing between them.

The Applicant will discuss preferred dates and submit the documents together; this is likely to be in early January 2024.

## **Specific decisions/ follow-up required?**

The following actions were agreed:

- The Applicant to inform PINS of the draft document submission date.