

THE YORK POTASH HARBOUR FACILITIES ORDER 201X

Project Position Statement



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PROJECT POSITION STATEMENT

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1. Introduction

1.1 This statement accompanies an application for a development consent order (“the Application”) submitted on behalf of York Potash Limited (“the Applicant”). The Application seeks approval of the York Potash Harbour Facilities Order 201X (“the DCO”).

1.2 The proposed harbour forms part of the overall York Potash Project (“the Project”) which involves the creation of a mine for the winning and working of polyhalite together with the necessary infrastructure required for the subsequent distribution of the mineral.

1.3 This statement sets out the position of each element of the Project at the time of submission of the Application. The appendices to this statement are listed at the end of this statement.

1.4 The Project principally comprises the following:

- a) The mine (with a minehead to be located at Doves Nest Farm near Whitby).
- b) A mineral transport system (MTS), being a tunnel (approximately 36.7km in length) with conveyor to transport the polyhalite from the mine to the materials handling facility at Wilton.
- c) A materials handling facility at Wilton.
- d) A harbour facility at Bran Sands, Teesside linked to the materials handling facility by a conveyor system.

1.5 Additionally, there are two proposed park & ride facilities as follows:

- a) A temporary park & ride facility to transport construction workers to the mine and MTS construction sites. The option to provide a construction worker village at the site is also provided for; and
- b) A mine operations park & ride facility, west of Whitby.

1.6 The mineral will be mined, crushed, loaded onto hoppers at the minehead and transported by the mineral transport system to Wilton. The mineral will then pass through a materials handling facility (for granulation and storage) in preparation for onward distribution via the proposed new harbour facilities.

1.7 Further detail relating to the background of the York Potash Project is contained in the Planning Statement relating to the DCO Application (Document 7.1).

2. Mine/Mineral Transport System

2.1 The elements of the Project referred to at 1.4 (a) and (b) above are the subject of a single, cross-boundary, planning application which was submitted to the North York Moors National Park Authority (“NYMNP”) and Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council (“RCBC”) on 30 September 2014. The application awaits determination.

2.2 The application is for *“the winning and working of polyhalite by underground methods including the construction of a mine-head at Dove’s Nest Farm involving access, maintenance and ventilation shafts, the land-forming of associated spoil, the construction of buildings, access roads, car parking and helicopter landing site, attenuation ponds, landscaping, restoration and aftercare and associated works. In addition, the construction of an underground tunnel between Dove’s Nest*

Farm and land at Wilton that links to the mine below ground, comprising 1 No. shaft at Dove's Nest Farm, 3 No. intermediate access shaft sites, each with associated landforming of associated spoil, the construction of buildings, access roads and car parking, landscaping, restoration and aftercare, and the construction of a tunnel portal at Wilton comprising buildings, landforming of spoil and associated works".

2.3 The NYMNPA application was registered on 9 October 2014 and allocated application reference number NYM/2014/0676/MEIA and the RCBC application was registered on 30 September 2014 and allocated reference number R/2014/0627/FFM.

2.4 An extension of time for determination of the application has been agreed with the NYMNPA. Supplementary Environmental Information (SEI) was submitted to the NYMNPA and RCBC for the mine/MTS application in February 2015. The SEI considers the environmental implications of changes resulting from the evolution of the design of the mine surface development at Doves Nest Farm and the MTS intermediate shaft sites.

2.5 The following documentation submitted in support of the mine/MTS application is appended to this statement:

- a) The Planning Statement (**Appendix 1**).
- b) The Major Development Test Planning Statement (**Appendix 2**).
- c) The Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) (**Appendix 3**). This report provided the Applicants' HRA for the Project at the time of the submission of the mine/MTS application. The HRA submitted with the DCO Application (Document 6.3) supersedes that HRA in respect of this Application.

- d) The Economic Impact Report which relates to all elements of the York Potash Project (**Appendix 4**).
- e) The Alternative Sites Assessment (**Appendix 7**).

2.6 The SEI for the mine/MTS application included assessment of the potential impacts of the changes to the scheme design on emissions to air and, consequently, ecology. Specifically, at Dove's Nest Farm, emission of ventilation air is now proposed to be via the MTS shaft rather than via a dedicated ventilation shaft from the mine. In addition, mitigation options at the mine surface development site and MTS intermediate shaft sites to reduce emissions from the operation of the diesel generators during the construction phase of the project were investigated further, leading to additional assessment and verification. New ecological receptor locations within Ugglebarnby Moor were also included in the assessment at the request of Natural England.

2.7 The findings of the Habitats Regulations Assessment referred to in paragraph 2.5 c) above (specifically the implications of the Project for the North York Moors Special Area of Conservation (SAC)) were re-evaluated (in the SEI) in light of the additional air quality and ecological assessment. The ES for the mine/MTS application and the SEI can be viewed on the websites of NYMNPA and RCBC.

3. Materials Handling Facility

3.1 An application for "*a mineral (polyhalite) granulation and storage facility at Wilton International Complex on Teesside involving the construction of buildings, conveyor systems, substations, water treatment plant, internal access roads, car parking, attenuation ponds, landscaping, restoration and aftercare, and the construction of a tunnel portal, including the landforming of spoil and associated works*" was submitted to Redcar and Cleveland

Borough Council on 30 September 2014 and registered on 30 September 2014 with reference number R/2014/0626/FFM. The application awaits determination.

3.2 The Planning Statement relating to that application is contained at **Appendix 5**.

4. Temporary Park & Ride and Construction Village

4.1 An application for a temporary Park & Ride facility and a construction village (the latter being optional) on land to the south of Stainsacre Lane to the south east of Whitby for use by the mine construction workers, was submitted in January 2015. The application awaits determination.

5. Operations Park & Ride

5.1 This is known as the “Cross Butts Park & Ride” and is the subject of a planning application submitted to the NYMNPA by North Yorkshire County Council in December 2014. This application seeks permission to extend the existing Park & Ride facility and to allow 24 hour access to the new parking spaces to be used in connection with the mine site. The application awaits determination.

6. Offshore Marine Licence

6.1 A licence for offshore mineral extraction was granted to the Applicant by the Marine Management Organisation on behalf of the Secretary of State in January 2013 under Part 4 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (licence number L/2013/00027). The licence commences on 1 January 2017 and is valid until 1 January 2037. A copy of the licence is contained at **Appendix 6**.

6.2 The area permitted to be extracted under the licence extends

the area identified for onshore extraction in the mine/MTS application into the North Sea.

APPENDICES

1. Appendix 1: Planning Statement relating to the Mine/MTS application;
2. Appendix 2:
 - a. Major Development Test Planning Statement relating to the Mine/MTS application;
 - b. Appendices to Major Development Test Planning Statement relating to the Mine/MTS application;
3. Appendix 3: Habitats Regulation Assessment submitted with mine/MTS application;
4. Appendix 4: Economic Impact Report relating to the whole Project;
5. Appendix 5: Planning Statement relating to the MHF application; and
6. Appendix 6: Marine Licence for offshore extraction.
7. Appendix 7: Alternative Sites Assessment relating to the mine/MTS application