



Meeting note

Project name	HyNet CO ₂ Pipeline
File reference	EN070007
Status	FINAL
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	15 December 2020
Meeting with	ENI, Progressive Energy Limited, WSP
Venue	Telecon
Meeting objectives	Inception Meeting
Circulation	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.

The Inspectorate explained that the publication of the meeting note could be delayed up to six months, or until a formal scoping request had been submitted (if requested by an Applicant for commercial reasons).

Details of the Applicant Team

The development of the HyNet CO₂ Pipeline will be led by Eni UK and Progressive Energy Limited (PEL). The DCO Applicant will be Eni. WSP, acting on behalf of Eni/PEL, will be the agent for the project and Burges Salmon will act as the legal advisors.

Details of Proposed Development

HyNet North West (the proposed development) is an integrated, full chain Hydrogen/CCS (Carbon Capture Storage) project which aims to help achieve net zero both at national and regional level. The development will serve Manchester, Liverpool, Cheshire, Warrington and North Wales. It comprises the following components:

- Grinsome Road Above Ground Installation (AGI) at Ince Fertiliser Plant;
- Newbuild onshore 12" pipeline from the Ince Fertiliser Plant AGI to the Alcohols Site AGI;
- Alcohols Site AGI adjacent to the hydrogen production plant within the Stanlow Refinery boundary;
- Newbuild onshore 36" pipeline from the Stanlow Refinery to Connah's Quay AGI;

- Connah's Quay AGI at connection between newbuild and existing pipeline
- Existing 24" natural gas pipeline between Connah's Quay and Point of Ayr repurposed to transport CO₂ including installation of new block valves and potential pipe strengthening in several locations;
- Existing Gas Processing Plant at Point of Ayr (TBC) – where additional compression plant, cooling and power systems will be added.

It is intended that all the captured CO₂ will be captured and stored offshore whilst the hydrogen produced will be distributed via new hydrogen pipelines, used as fuel at Stanlow refinery and some blended with natural gas into the local pipeline distribution network.

Consenting Programme

The Applicant intends to submit an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) scoping request in Q1/Q2 2021. The Applicant explained the current extent of the redline boundary, noting that the boundary would be refined during the EIA process. The Inspectorate emphasised that the ability to scope out aspects and matters to provide a more proportionate assessment, would in part depend on the degree of certainty that could be provided in the extent of that redline boundary.

The Inspectorate ask for reassurance on the consenting of the CO₂ pipeline, reflecting on the Yorkshire Humber CCS Pipeline DCO application failing to get development consent. The Applicant confirmed that this has been considered, it believes that there has been a shift in the political landscape to support a development of this nature and that net-zero will not be achieved without the use of CCS.

The Inspectorate advise the Applicant to consider the importance of Welsh Engagement relating to the proposed development. The Inspectorate offered further guidance on this if it is required by the Applicant. In particular, the Inspectorate advised the Applicant to be cognisant of Welsh language requirements.

Stakeholder Engagement

The Applicant stated that local engagement suggests support for the proposed development, with local authorities having declared a climate emergency. Therefore, the drive and desire exists for projects utilising decarbonising technologies. The Applicant has received letters of support from metropolitan leaders in the area surrounding the proposed development.

Planned Consultation

The Applicant intends to hold two rounds of consultation. Non-statutory consultation is anticipated to commence in Q1/Q2 2021, the Applicant confirmed that the non-statutory consultation will most likely be entirely virtual. Statutory consultation is intended to take place in Q3/Q4 2021, ready for a submission in early 2022. The Applicant intends to complete statutory consultation using both virtual and public facing events, depending on restrictions in place at the time.

Compulsory Acquisition and Land Access

The Applicant confirmed that Compulsory Acquisition powers will be sought through the DCO. The Inspectorate queried how the Applicant intended to access land for the purposes of surveys. The Applicant stated that it was likely to rely on powers under s172 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016. The Inspectorate discussed the programme implications for use of section 53 of the Planning Act.

Specific decisions/ follow-up required?

The following actions were agreed:

- Organise a follow up meeting in January.
- Decide upon name and set up project page.