



Meeting note

Project name	HyNet North West Carbon Dioxide Pipeline
File reference	EN070007
Status	FINAL
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	14 April 2021
Meeting with	ENI, Progressive Energy Limited, WSP
Venue	Microsoft Teams
Meeting objectives	Project Update
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.

HyNet North West Carbon Dioxide Pipeline Project Recap

The Applicant provided a recap of the scheme with the information provided at the Inception Meeting held on 15 December 2020. The Applicant confirmed that the Development Consent Order (DCO) application will be for the carbon dioxide (CO₂) pipeline from Stanlow to a site near Flint and would comprise of the following proposed works:

- Grinsome Road Above Ground Installation (AGI);
- Alcohols Site AGI;
- Newbuild pipeline (up to 20") between Grinsome Road and Alcohols Site AGIs;
- Newbuild 36" pipeline from Alcohols Site AGI to Flint AGI;
- Block valves; and
- Flint AGI connection with existing pipeline

The Applicant confirmed that there is no intention for a request for a s35 direction for any elements of the scheme, as the Applicant considered that all proposals fit within the definition of "Pipelines" in the PA2008.

Project Update

The Applicant provided the Inspectorate with the key project updates and changes since the previous meeting. The Applicant confirmed that:

- UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) grant funding was confirmed on 1 March 2021.
- Modification works to the existing 24" pipeline infrastructure, including the installation of block valves, strengthening and diversions. The Applicant explained that this has been informed by the worst cases sensitivity testing. In parallel studies are being done to scope out the worst-case contingencies. The Inspectorate enquired about additional Health and Safety risks associated with these works, the Applicant confirmed that a Quantitative Risk Assessment (QRA) will be conducted.
- Extant consents have been reviewed and the project consenting strategy updated and changes to current extant authorisations for repurposed infrastructure will also be required.

Works Subject to TCPA (Town and Country Planning Act) Applications

The Applicant stated that modification works to the existing pipeline infrastructure, foreshore pipeline and PoA Terminal would be located in Wales and therefore cannot be treated as associated development. The Applicant explained that these works are to be consented through separate applications under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) (TCPA).

A section 73 TCPA application will be made to vary the planning consent of the foreshore pipeline, in order to change or remove the condition which sets a time limit for the removal of the original pipeline following its decommissioning, so it can be re-purposed.

The Applicant confirmed that it intends to use DCO to authorise the compulsory acquisition of the existing and diverted pipeline for CO₂ to secure the necessary land and rights.

The Applicant explained that it intends for the TCPA applications to be granted prior to submission of the DCO application, but the submission of the DCO application before TCPA consents being granted is possible.

Consents/EIA Strategy and EIA Scoping

The Applicant confirmed that the DCO red line boundary to be provided at Scoping will cover the maximum extent of all potential permanent and temporary construction works as required as part of the Proposed Development. The Environmental Statement will consider cumulative effects of the project, modification works to be consented through separate TCPA applications and future permissions yet to be consented.

The Inspectorate advised the Applicant that any Environmental Statement would have to provide a clear description of the elements covered by the DCO and those covered by other consenting regimes.

Programme

The Applicant outlined the indicative programme for the DCO and TCPA. Non-Statutory consultation is set to begin June 2021 (this will cover the DCO and TCPA applications together), with the intention of submitting the DCO application in Q2 2022. The Applicant intends to submit a GIS Shapefile towards the end of April with a Scoping Request to follow in May. The Applicant considers that the TCPA consents should be granted in Q2 2022.

Land Access and Surveys

The Applicant confirmed that survey access letters and licenses were issued in February 2021 and has commenced ecology surveys where land access was secured. The Applicant stated that there is ongoing engagement with the landowners to secure outstanding access arrangements.

The Applicant confirmed that it does not expect that any s53 applications will be made prior to the DCO submission, a s172 strategy will be used instead, if necessary.

The Inspectorate asked for the project information for the project page to be provided well in advance of any Scoping Request so that a project page and mailbox can be set up using the correct project name and information. This information will need to be translated for publication on the project's Welsh language site.

Stakeholder and Consultation Update

The Applicant held two meetings with Natural England and Natural Resources Wales to agree survey methodologies for the Environmental Assessments. The Applicant is in the process of developing a strategy for engagement with stakeholders for both the DCO and separate TCPA applications. The Applicant confirmed that non-statutory consultation on the DCO would be held in June 2021.

The Inspectorate enquired about Welsh language engagement; the Applicant confirmed that a Welsh translation team makes up part of the Communications Team, and communications will be issued bilingually.

Project Registration

The Applicant confirmed that a special purpose vehicle company has been formed (owned by an Eni group company) and they will be the DCO Applicant.

Specific decisions/ follow-up required?

The following actions were agreed:

- Applicant to provide the Inspectorate with the relevant information to set up project pages;
- The Inspectorate to set up project pages and mailbox, once the relevant information is provided by the Applicant.