



To:
H2 Teesside Limited
The Crown Estate
National Gas Transmission plc
National Grid Electricity Transmission plc
Natural England
Hartlepool Borough Council
Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
Stockton on Tees Borough Council

Our Ref: EN070009

7 July 2025

Dear Sir or Madam,

Planning Act 2008 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

Application by H2 Teesside Limited (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed H2Teesside development (“the Proposed Development”)

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

1. Following the completion of the Examination on 28 February 2025, the Examining Authority submitted a Report and Recommendation in respect of its findings and conclusions on the above application to the Secretary of State on 28 May 2025. In accordance with section 107 of the Planning Act 2008, the Secretary of State has three months to determine the application. The Secretary of State issued an information request on 13 June 2025¹ to which several parties responded².
2. There are further issues on which the Secretary of State would be grateful if the **Applicant, The Crown Estate (“TCE”), National Gas Transmission plc (“NGT”), National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (“NGET”), Natural England (“NE”), Hartlepool Borough Council (“HBC”), Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council (“RCBC”), and Stockton on Tees Borough Council (“STBC”)** could provide updates or information as appropriate.

Crown land – the Applicant and TCE

3. In its response to the first information request, the Applicant stated it has not obtained the outstanding relevant Crown consent pursuant to section 135 of the

¹ <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN070009/EN070009-002106-Information%20Request%20from%20SoS%20-%20H2Teesside%20-%2013%20June%202025.pdf>

² <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN070009/documents?stage-6=Secretary%20of%20State%20Consultation%201&itemsPerPage=25>

Planning Act 2008, but that progress had been made with 11 articles out of 20 agreed with TCE. No response was received from TCE. The **Applicant** and **TCE** should provide evidence to the Secretary of State of the obtained section 135 consent by no later than 1 August 2025 to allow time for the evidence to be reviewed ahead of the statutory deadline.

4. If TCE's consent has not been obtained by 1 August 2025, the **Applicant** should set out the reasons for this, including any outstanding issues. At that time, the **Applicant** should share its new correspondence with TCE and confirm when these issues will be resolved by.

Project Union and the Cowpen Bewley Arm - the Applicant, NGT and NGET

5. In its response to the first information request, the Applicant stated that the only credible route to connect into NGT's proposed regional hydrogen network, part of Project Union, would be via the connection points and above ground installations on the Cowpen Bewley Arm of the Proposed Development. The Applicant stated this was because ongoing work with NGT showed that an alternative connection on the Billingham Arm of the Proposed Development is no longer credible. The **Applicant** and **NGT** should provide evidence of this work and collaboration. **NGT** should confirm the Applicant's assessment that the Cowpen Bewley Arm remains the only connection available as part of the Proposed Development to connect into Project Union. **NGT** should provide information as to whether the Proposed Development being unable to connect via the Cowpen Bewley Arm would affect East Coast Hydrogen.
6. In respect of the lack of an agreed position with NGET, the Applicant stated that it seeks 'to reach a mutually acceptable negotiated position that would allow NGET to withdraw that position prior to the Secretary of State decision'. The **Applicant** and **NGET** should provide a final update on this position by no later than 1 August 2025.
7. In respect of blending hydrogen into existing natural gas pipelines, the Applicant stated that there is 'only a single other location for blending in Teesside'. The **Applicant** should confirm that 'the tie-in point in the Seal Sands area within the Order limits' remains viable for blending hydrogen within the Teesside area and if there are any effects on this connection due to other work with NGT.

Nitrogen deposition requirement – NE, HBC, RCBC and STBC

8. **NE, HBC, RCBC** and **STBC** should provide their without prejudice views on the proposed drafting for a new Requirement within Schedule 2, as set out below:

“(1) No part of the authorised development may commence operation until a Nitrogen Deposition Assessment has been submitted to and, after consultation with Natural England, approved by the relevant planning authority.

(2) If the Nitrogen Deposition Assessment submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) does not demonstrate that the emissions from the authorised development

will not exceed 1% of the critical load of nitrogen deposition for the authorised development alone on the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Site of Special Scientific Interest, then a mitigation plan must be submitted to and, after consultation with Natural England, approved by the relevant planning authority.

(3) The mitigation plan submitted pursuant to paragraph (2) could include details of—

- (a) any potential on-site mitigations;*
- (b) details of how any potential mitigations are to be implemented in collaboration with other industries or landowners, including any air quality data of current emissions and modelling of emissions with the mitigation applied to evidence that emissions will be reduced sufficiently on the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Site of Special Scientific Interest ; and/or*
- c) details of any participation in a strategic mitigation scheme, if such a scheme is established.*

(4) The undertaker must implement the mitigation plan as approved, unless otherwise agreed with the relevant planning authority following consultation with Natural England.

(5) The undertaker must, no later than 28 days after the mitigation plan is approved, provide a copy of the approved mitigation plan to the Secretary of State.

(6) In this requirement—

“Nitrogen Deposition Assessment” means an assessment of the emissions from the authorised development on the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Site of Special Scientific Interest; and

“mitigation plan” means a plan including details of how the proposed mitigations will not cause any net increase in nitrogen deposition (kg N/ha/yr) from the authorised development alone on the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Site of Special Scientific Interest”

Deadline for Response

9. Responses to paragraphs 5, 7 and 8 should be submitted by the **Applicant, NGT, NE, HBC, RCBC and STBC** by email only to H2Teesside@planninginspectorate.gov.uk by **23:59 on 18 July 2025**.
10. Responses to paragraphs 3, 4, and 6 should be submitted by the **Applicant, TCE and NGET** by email only to H2Teesside@planninginspectorate.gov.uk by **23:59 on 1 August 2025**.
11. Responses will be published on the H2Teesside project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website as soon as possible after 18 July 2025 and 1 August 2025:

<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN070009>

12. This letter is without prejudice to the Secretary of State's consideration of whether to grant or withhold development consent for the Proposed Development or any part of the project.
13. Nothing in this letter is to be taken to imply what the eventual decision might be or what final conclusions the Secretary of State may reach on any particular issue which is relevant to the determination of the application.

Yours faithfully,



John Wheadon

Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery and Innovation
Department for Energy Security and Net Zero