

Department For Energy Security & Net Zero  
3-8 Whitehall Place London SW1A 2AW  
FAO John Weadon

Dear Sir

**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**

Please accept this email as NGT’s response to the Information Request (EN070009) issued by the Secretary of State on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2025.

With reference to the paragraph numbering adopted within the Information Request, we provide the following response:

Paragraph	Question:	Response:
5	<i>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.</i>	<p><b>Joint statement agreed with BP</b></p> <p>Since 2024, NGT has met with H2Teesside to discuss the subject of blending and Project Union. This has involved the sharing of technical information to support decision-making with respect to the appropriate points of connection.</p> <p>Connecting at Billingham would require the repurposing of an existing 24” NTS pipeline between the Billingham Industrial Estate AGI and Cowpen Bewley to allow for the hydrogen to connect into the rest of the Project Union network at Cowpen Bewley. However, the ability to do this without providing an alternative natural gas supply to Billingham was a concern throughout the discussions with NGT, as it would need to confirm this position with other stakeholders (and this was part of the reason therefore for the optionality within the DCO Application). Indeed, following the end of the Examination, it has now been confirmed that that existing pipeline is still at this time being used for natural gas supply, and to preserve this connection, an alternative natural gas supply would need to be provided.</p>

	<p>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.</p>	<p>As this was a known risk, discussions between the parties therefore focussed on the provision of a new natural gas pipeline to connect Billingham to the NTS to enable repurposing of the existing 24" NTS pipeline to hydrogen service. However, the work done to inform those discussions has identified that the construction of the pipeline and an associated AGI (to allow access for pigging for integrity management) cannot practically avoid the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and SSSI. It would also involve the crossing of a number of existing buried services.</p> <p>NGT undertook an assessment of alternative routing options for connection to Project Union. The primary purpose of this assessment was to consider the feasibility of repurposing a section of the existing 24" natural gas pipeline from Cowpen Bewley to Billingham (Feeder 6). All of the routes, except for one, connected with bp's proposed routing at or close to plot 3/8 within the Order Limits <a href="#">EN070009-001805-H2T DCO 2.2 Land Plans Rev 3 - 6 Feb 25.pdf</a>, which is downstream of the NGET parcel of land being discussed. The one scenario which did not connect at this location was a route that connected to Project Union at Billingham. Given Billingham is a natural gas offtake, a separate natural gas pipeline would need to be constructed to preserve this connection.</p> <p>In the project outputs following the assessment, the routing option which connected via Billingham scored less favourably to the new build pipeline direct to Cowpen Bewley, as proposed by the Applicant. This was for the reasons outlined in the joint statement above.</p> <p>As part of Project Union: East Coast, NGT has engaged directly with customers and collected primary data regarding forecasted hydrogen supply and demand. A significant part of the forecasted demand is concentrated in the</p>
--	--	---

		<p>Humber region, where local forecasted hydrogen supply may be insufficient to allow unconstrained operation of large demand loads as required, for example, by power generation. Consequently, a pipeline connecting Teesside, the location of several planned hydrogen production projects, to the Humber is highly beneficial to meeting this demand. If H2Teesside cannot connect to Project Union this could result in a shortfall in hydrogen supply, preventing some customers from transitioning fully to hydrogen.</p>
--	--	--