



Meeting note

Project name	Humber Carbon Capture Pipeline
File reference	EN0710003
Status	Draft
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	18 April 2024
Meeting with	Net Zero North Sea Storage Limited (“the Applicant”)
Venue	Microsoft Teams
Meeting objectives	Project Update 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 (if requested by an Applicant for commercial reasons), or until a formal scoping request had been submitted.

Introduction

The East Coast Cluster (ECC) was one of two Track 1 projects selected by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) to progress commercial carbon capture in the UK. DESNZ have structured phase 1 and 2 of the ECC on Teesside and aim to capture 4 million tonnes per annum of carbon dioxide (CO₂). DESNZ are now structuring phase 3 to capture and store 10 million tonnes per annum of CO₂ from the Humber emitters.

Project History

National Grid Ventures (NGV) were previously proposing a DCO application for the Humber Low Carbon Pipelines (HLCP) project which consisted of both CO₂ transportation and hydrogen transportation pipelines. NGV left the Northern Endurance Partnership (NEP) in early 2023 and that scheme was withdrawn.

The NEP purchased the work that NGV had undertaken for HLCP; the transaction was completed in early 2024. The current proposal could have a different route to the one that NGV previously consulted on, with parts of the current route shared with the routing previously proposed by NGV. The Applicant noted that previously gathered feedback would not be relied upon during the examination and would primarily be used as



background information as it was collected by a separate organisation. This would be reported through the consultation report.

Project Overview and approach to route development

Consent would be sought for an onshore CO₂ transportation pipeline from the Drax Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage project (Drax BECCS) in North Yorkshire to Easington in the East Riding of Yorkshire. This would consist of a single pipeline only. It would include a main pipeline with spur connections to potential carbon capture projects and crossings beneath the River Trent and the Humber estuary, including launch and receiving arrangements. Above ground installations (AGIs) would be installed, including a pumping station at the coast and facilities to support the maintenance and operation of the pipeline at various locations along the pipeline corridor. The landfall extending to Mean Low Water Spring at Easington where CO₂ transportation pipeline infrastructure would enable transition from onshore to the marine environment. The offshore pipeline and secure storage under the North Sea are subject to separate consents under existing oil and gas legislation. The Inspectorate asked about the likely pipeline diameter; the Applicant could not confirm at this stage but predicted that it would likely be 24 inches.

At this stage, the design indicatively assumed connections to Drax BECCS plus further carbon capture projects in line with DESNZ's shortlisting process. These could vary following further announcements and shortlisting from DESNZ. The Applicant was assessing two options for the pipeline between Drax BECCS and Easington, either to the north or south of Scunthorpe. Along this route, the project would connect to a series of carbon capture projects. The DCO would include spur lines which connect to the fence lines of the potential carbon capture projects.

Pipeline Route

Pipeline route development work was ongoing. Information for early engagement would be shared with stakeholders in due course. The Applicant was planning ahead for non-statutory consultation and undertaking a comprehensive review and appraisal of route options responding to: societal/ safety standards; planning; environmental and landowner constraints; and the DESNZ process for identifying connected projects/ emitters.

Approach to Consenting

The Applicant outlined reasons influencing designation as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). It referred to Section 14(1)(g) which states "the construction of a pipeline other than by a gas transporter" and discussed how the project meets the definition of a 'pipeline'; the Applicant confirmed that the approximate length of the pipeline was 90km.

Land Acquisition

Dalcour Maclaren were appointed as land agents for the project. The project intended to apply for compulsory acquisition powers within its DCO where voluntary agreement could not be reached. Where the pipeline crosses areas of Crown Land, the Applicant would be actively seeking to discuss matters with the Crown Estate as required. The Inspectorate advised that the route should be as confirmed as early as possible to avoid changes post-



submission and that the Applicant should engage with The Crown Estate as early as possible to discuss the Crown Land.

Project Milestones

The non-statutory consultation was planned for mid/late 2024 followed by Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping towards the end of 2024. The Applicant expected an announcement from DESNZ on connected projects by the end of 2024.

The statutory-consultation period was scheduled for 2025 with the DCO application submission targeted for mid-2026.



The Planning Inspectorate