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**Sent:** 01 October 2026 15:30  
**To:** East Coast Hydrogen Pipeline – Teesside  
<eastcoasthydrogenteesside@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Ref: EN0710010

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Good Afternoon,

Stockton Borough Council considers that land contamination and groundwater contamination should remain within the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Stockton Councils boundary for the construction phase of the proposed development.

The proposed pipeline route passes through, or in close proximity to, areas of historical industrial activity, historic landfill sites, made ground and areas of unknown fill. Although some of these areas are now in agricultural or open land use, contamination may remain present beneath the surface. Construction activities, including trench excavation, and the handling of excavated materials, have the potential to mobilise contamination, creating risks to construction workers, controlled waters and the wider environment.

It is considered therefore that potential contamination impacts during construction should be assessed within the Environmental Statement and supported by an appropriate risk assessment, site investigation and mitigation strategy where necessary.

The Council agrees that contamination impacts during the operational phase are unlikely to give rise to significant effects, provided contamination encountered during construction is appropriately identified and managed, and that the proposed design standards, construction controls and operational management measures are secured through the Development Consent Order and associated management plans.

The Council also agrees with the Inspectorate's position that contamination impacts associated with decommissioning should not be scoped out at this stage, as there is presently insufficient information to show there would not be any significant effects.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]  
Senior Environmental Health Officer  
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