

## Keuper Gas Storage Project Local Liaison Group Minutes of Meeting

Item	Summary	Actions
<b>Meeting</b>	Keuper Gas Storage Project (KGSP) Local Liaison Group (LLG)	
<b>Details</b>	Tuesday 30 November 2021, 6pm – 7.30pm, via MS Teams	
<b>Attendees</b>	Richard Stevenson, INOVYN Janet Ward, INOVYN Cllr Carol Bulman (Cheshire East Council) Steven Holmes (Cheshire West and Chester Council) Cllr Tony Roberts (Lach Dennis Parish Council) Cllr Paul Spare (Davenham Parish Council) Hazel West (Allostock Parish Council) Cllr Julie Wilson (Allostock Parish Council) Lewis Jones, Font Comms (Chair) Alex Wagner, Font Comms (Minutes)	
<b>Item 1</b>	<b>Welcome and introductions</b>	
	Chair Lewis Jones (LJ) welcomed all attendees to the first meeting of the KGSP LLG, with attendees introducing themselves in turn.	
<b>Item 2</b>	<b>Review of draft Terms of Reference for the Local Liaison Group</b>	
	LJ referred to the draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for the LLG, issued to members in advance and shown on screen during the meeting. LJ provided a summary of the TOR, including key points such as frequency of the meeting to be held quarterly, with the next meeting in February 2022.  Location of the meetings were also referenced, with the meetings to continue to be held online via MS Teams and reviewed on case-by-case basis.  LJ then provided a summary of the members of the LLG; arrangements for publishing the agenda and minutes on the project website; purposes and objectives of the Group; and future chairing arrangements. Members to express via email or phone to the project team whether they want to elect a chair from the LLG members for the next meeting.  No comments or issues raised by members. The TOR were approved and adopted. It was agreed these would be shared alongside the minutes.	LLG members  LJ
<b>Item 3</b>	<b>Summary of the Keuper Gas Storage Project consent</b>	
	Richard Stevenson (RS) provided a summary of the KGSP, detailed in the accompanying slides (attached to minutes).  He outlined how the project was brought forward in 2014 as a nationally significant infrastructure project playing a key role in helping keep the lights on in the UK. RS outlined the role of gas storage in providing energy resilience and previous gas storage projects already operational at the Holford Brinefield.  RS summarised the planning process and key milestones, including working with Cheshire West and Chester and parish councils a key	

	<p>consultees, with the application granted permission by the Secretary of State in 2017.</p> <p>RS provided an overview of the project infrastructure, including 19 underground gas storage cavities, a gas processing plant, transmission system, office, gas marshalling compounds, solution mining compound, and overhead electricity cables. He explained how KGSP will be on southern part of Holford Brinefield and involves creating boreholes and cavities to collect brine, then using the cavities as a storage space for gas. Gas would be stored here during periods of low demand and exported during periods of high demand throughout the network.</p> <p>Further details and all project documents are available to view on the project website: <a href="http://www.kgsp.co.uk">http://www.kgsp.co.uk</a></p> <p>Cllr Carol Bulman (CB) asked if the project is safe, and if we are talking about hydrogen in particular. RS said the project as consented is natural gas but INOVYN is exploring the opportunity to store hydrogen to be discussed later in the agenda. He outlined the potential hazards/risks and strict mitigation measures in place. RS explained how the industry is very tightly regulated, requiring a Hazardous Substances consent to operate and being regulated by the Health and Safety Executive. He added that the measures in place only allow trusted and competent companies to operate such facilities. RS explained how the salt cavities a non-porous and air tight, and how regular inspections and maintenance are carried out on the pipeline network as part of operating procedures.</p>	
<b>Item 4</b>	<b>Next steps and activity on site</b>	
	<p>RS provided an overview of next steps to deliver the consented site, using the summary and maps in the slides (attached) as a visual aid.</p> <p>He explained that INOVYN is now in a position to implement the project. Whilst the KGSP has consent, the team need to submit lots of additional detail to the planning authority (Cheshire West and Chester) to be agreed before works start. This is being done in phases, with the first details submitted to the Council for feedback.</p> <p>RS detailed the phased approach to delivering the project, with each phase featuring several stages. Phase One will include the drilling of boreholes for the first eight cavities, delivery of site entrances and roads, solution mining infrastructure, and ancillary development such as cable diversions.</p> <p>Phase Two would be the start of delivering gas storage infrastructure and further cavities, whilst Phase Three would be delivery of the last cavities and gas network pipelines.</p> <p>RS explained how the site entrance on King Street already exists with some additional signage needed, but no closures of King Street required. He provided an overview of the first works to commence in early 2022, including work on site roads off Yatehouse Lane, including removal and replacement of hedgerow, as well as work to create a new site entrance on Drakelow Lane. This involves widening and tarmacking the road so it is suitable for construction vehicles and creating a new site entrance, installing Cheshire railings to increase visibility. This will involve some temporary diversions or road closures, which are to be agreed with the highways department and will be communicated in advance. After the entrance is created, it's not anticipated there would be further road</p>	

	<p>closures. Improvements are also being made to the public highway near the site entrance.</p> <p>RS said this work, likely to begin in January, is expected to take around three months.</p> <p>LJ drew attention to the free methods of contacting the project team for LLG members and the community. Detailed on the website and LLG slides, these include Freephone number; Freepost address; and email address.</p> <p>Cllr Paul Spare (PS) asked if the first eight chambers will all be the same size and take the same time to empty the brine from. RS said they will all be roughly the same size, 350,000 cubic metres (roughly the size of the Liver Building) and smaller than brine winning cavities such as near Lostock. He added that they can be solution mined in parallel and are monitored by sonar survey. RS explained that they will not all be done at the same time and some will be ready sooner than others.</p> <p>RS said that to deliver the boreholes, there would potentially be of two drilling rigs, but one borehole would be worked on at a time, taking six to eight weeks for each to be drilled. He added that the first year is road and site construction, with the second year anticipated to be drilling with brine pipes being laid in areas already completed, so solution mining can start.</p> <p>RS said completing solution mining of a cavity will take two or three years. He added that, whilst construction spans several years, it is not years of continued construction. Activity is spread over a large, rural site and there are regular periods of little and low-impact activity.</p> <p>Cllr Julia Wilson (JW) asked whether this will connect to or change the approach to solution mining at Hulme Hall. RS responded that activity at Hulme Hall was to ensure a continued supply of brine to customers, given many cavities at the Holford Brinefield are reaching end of life. He said that, whilst delivery of KGSP could slow the need for more cavities at Hulme Hall, these will still be needed.</p> <p>JW asked whether 'footpath 16' near the Hulme Hall site will be restored. RS said he would check with the project team and update JW directly following the meeting.</p>	RS
<b>Item 5</b>	<b>INOVYN and hydrogen</b>	
	<p>RS outlined the importance of tackling climate change, outlining the difficulty of achieving net zero and the role of gas storage in supporting domestic energy resilience in the UK. He outlined how hydrogen can be used as green alternative to natural gas in homes, industry and as a transport fuel.</p> <p>RS provided examples of innovation currently ongoing to deliver hydrogen, including work by gas network operators to explore blending hydrogen into the transmission system and providing a 100% hydrogen supply in the future. He explained how key industries, such as glass manufacturing, requires lots of energy and heat, which is hard to decarbonise.</p> <p>RS detailed how INOVYN (and parent company INEOS) have produced and used hydrogen for a long time, including at the existing site in</p>	

	<p>Runcorn. This is currently used in the chemical manufacturing process, sold as an industrial gas and used to generate steam at the Runcorn site.</p> <p>RS outlined INOVYN's commitment to investment in hydrogen and its status as Europe's largest operator of electrolysis technology.</p> <p>RS provided an overview of the HyNet North West project and the consortium of companies behind plans to generate and distribute hydrogen to industry in the region, including the need for both hydrogen storage as well as carbon capture off the North West coast. Further details of the project are available at <a href="https://hynet.co.uk">https://hynet.co.uk</a></p> <p>RS said the KGSP could provide around 1TWh of energy storage needed by HyNet North West. The feasibility of storing hydrogen at the site is therefore being explored. This requires a change to existing consent and the team is working with the Planning Inspectorate on this.</p> <p>RS outlined how this would not involve any major changes to approved infrastructure. It would involve the same roads, cavities, storage, pipeline network etc. the key difference would be storage of hydrogen rather than natural gas.</p> <p>Reports have been undertaken by environmental experts that worked on the original KGSP planning process to demonstrate that it can be done safely, with detailed work already underway on geology and cavity design, the safety case and process operations management.</p> <p>The team is now readying to start the formal process, which will involve consultation. It's anticipated that this will be a non-material change to the application.</p> <p>PS said he endorsed the proposal to prepare gas storage facilities for either natural gas or hydrogen. He observed that heat demand winter is so high that it will necessitate a very large number of facilities for hydrogen production and storage, but that the demand in summer is so much lower that they will not be required for most of the year.</p> <p>CB said it is very exciting a project like this is so close, competing with progress in places like Germany. She asked whether it reduced the UK's dependency on overseas energy sources. RS said the UK has relied on the North Sea and increasingly Norwegian oil and gas. This is running out and the UK is becoming more dependent on imports, storing natural gas or hydrogen will make the UK less reliant on imports. This would be the largest hydrogen storage project in the world, as it would have been the biggest natural gas storage site in the UK. CB asked if Cheshire pensions invest in INOVYN or HyNet. RS said this wouldn't be the case for INOVYN, but did not know whether this was the case for HyNet.</p> <p>RS said that information on hydrogen will be made available on the KGSP website and LLG members will be kept informed.</p>	<p>KGSP team</p>
<p><b>Item 6</b></p>	<p><b>Arrangements for future meetings and publication of minutes</b></p>	
	<p>LJ suggested that the February 2022 meeting is w/c Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February, as the following week is half term holidays locally.</p> <p>A calendar invitation with dial-in details to be circulated confirming the date and time. Draft agenda to be issued with minutes and circulated in advance of the meeting.</p>	<p>LJ</p>

Item 7	Any Other Business	
	<p>RS and LJ thanked LLG members for attending and their interest.</p> <p>Both committed to keeping members updated between now and the next meeting in February should there be any key milestones.</p> <p>The KGSP website will also be updated with further information about both the LLG and the project.</p>	<p>KGSP team</p> <p>LJ</p>