

Keuper Gas Storage Project Local Liaison Group Minutes of Meeting

Item	Summary	Actions
Meeting	Keuper Gas Storage Project (KGSP) Local Liaison Group (LLG)	
Details	Tuesday 15 February 2022, 6pm – 7.30pm, via MS Teams	
Attendees	Richard Stevenson, INOVYN Janet Ward, INOVYN Julia Wilson (Allostock Parish Council) Hazel West (Allostock Parish Council) John Beecroft (Byley Parish Meeting) Simon Moorehead (Byley Parish Meeting) Steven Holmes (Cheshire West and Chester Council) Paul Spare (Davenham Parish Council) Tony Roberts (Lach Dennis Parish Council) Lewis Jones, Font Comms (Chair) Alex Wagner, Font Comms (Minutes)	
Item 1	Welcome and introductions	
	Chair Lewis Jones (LJ) welcomed all attendees to the second meeting of the KGSP LLG, with attendees introducing themselves in turn.	
Item 2	Review and agreement of minutes	
	Members agreed the draft minutes as an accurate record of the meeting in November 2021. Julia Wilson (JW) provided an update on a noted action regarding a footpath in Allostock. She confirmed that she received a prompt and helpful update following the meeting, and that the footpath had been identified for improvements to be made. LJ noted that an action – to add further information on hydrogen to the KGSP website – had been carried over, and would be complete as part of the next step of engagement on the DCO.	LJ
Item 3	KGSP construction progress update	
	Richard Stevenson (RS) provided members with an update on the construction of KGSP, welcoming new members from Byley. He provided a brief overview of the consented project. RS said that Cheshire West & Chester Council has approved the commencement conditions subject to certain conditions, to allow KGSP to start construction. Simon Moorehead (SM) asked whether there is pipe going over the river as part of the project. RS explained that there is a pipe bridge in Runcorn over the canal. RS detailed how Bethell have been appointed to start civil works at site entrances, due to start in the next week. The programme of works will be 12 weeks, installing Cheshire railings and new hedgerows alongside ecological enhancement works. RS displayed a map of initial works on two junctions. John Beecroft (JB) asked if all Yatehouse Lane is to be resurfaced, or just the part around the entrance to the site. RS explained it will just be the	

	<p>part around the entrance, around 200 metres. JB commented that the Yatehouse Lane work has already made the road safer through hedge 'trimming'. RS added that Drakelowe Lane will subject to a road closure for resurfacing after Yatehouse Lane has been resurfaced, suggesting a closure of no longer than 5 days.</p> <p>JB asked to know in advance of closures in order to alert residents on the matter, which RS agreed to. LJ committed to updating the LLG members in advance of any road closures.</p>	RS / LJ
Item 4	Update on hydrogen activity	
	<p>RS provided the context of HyNet North West being the region's response to decarbonisation to meet Climate Change targets. He explained how INOVYN is proposing to make a non-material amendment to the consented project to allow KGSP to store hydrogen.</p> <p>RS explained how the option for natural gas storage is open, but a new focus on converting the project to hydrogen storage is the plan. This requires changes to planning consent. Work is already underway on this, with consultants engaged to undertaken design and safety work (almost completed) as well as assess any environmental impact, ahead of engagement with the public, local authorities, and the Planning Inspectorate.</p> <p>The basic operation of KGSP, storing gas in salt cavities, would be the same. There would also be limited changes to infrastructure at the site.</p> <p>The proposed changes to the DCO planning consist of removing the word 'natural' to the references of gas in order to accommodate hydrogen, removing the word 'National' from the definition of the Transmission system, and modifying a couple of approved drawings to allow options for a site compound.</p> <p>These changes need to be agreed with the Planning Inspectorate and local authorities, with stakeholder groups also consulted. LJ said the slides would be circulated after the meeting and LLG members would be kept updated on the consultation.</p> <p>SM asked about the decommissioning of previous projects. RS explained that the gas storage facilities (namely Holford Gas Storage operated by Uniper) has a nominal 25-30 year lifespan but is not due to be decommissioned soon. It could one day be changed to hydrogen if there is no demand for natural gas storage, and consent and leases run until at least 2042. RS explained that nominal 25-30 year lifespans are often not strictly accurate, with pipelines and cavities lasting significantly longer than the outlined period.</p> <p>JW asked if there will be brand new pipelines for the hydrogen and CO₂, and if they are to be underground or in existing pipelines. RS said that the CO₂ pipeline is half an existing pipeline and half a new pipeline from Essar. They will be buried, with some small site compounds above ground. HyNet is a new network of hydrogen pipelines. LJ added that consultations on both are currently live and links to the respective websites would be circulated after the meeting.</p> <p>SM asked if policy changed to support fracked gas, whether KGSP be able to store it. RS explained that if fracking was consented and produced gas that was supplied to the National Transmission System, then yes,</p>	<p>LJ</p> <p>LJ</p>

	<p>however said in his view this was unlikely to happen. He added that the UK is now likely to go down the hydrogen route.</p> <p>JB asked if compressors are different for natural gas and hydrogen, particularly regarding noise/speed. RS said that these are different technologies, natural gas compressors cannot be used for hydrogen compressors. Hydrogen compressors are slower speed, and less noisy if anything, but require more maintenance. RS said the team has demonstrated that noise limits can be met through the DCO process.</p> <p>JB asked if the project involved chimneys. RS said there would be fewer high structures with hydrogen than natural gas at KGSP.</p> <p>JB asked whether there would be a community benefit fund connected to the project. RS said there is a plan for this to be in place during the main years of construction, but that an amount could be made available this year, recognised some activity on site. RS suggested an approach to management of such a fund be brought to the next meeting and that this could be established now in advance of the main years of construction.</p> <p>Paul Spare (PS) asked if blending hydrogen into the natural gas system has been looked at by INOVYN. RS said that this is being explored and that this could be short-term win, particularly for residential properties. But HyNet North West is focusing on supplying 100% hydrogen to industry.</p>	RS/LJ
Item 5	Date of next meeting	
	It was agreed the next meeting will be held on 10 May 2022.	
Item 6	Any other business	
	N/A	