



Marine Management Organisation

Marine Development
Lancaster House
Newcastle Business Park
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE4 7YH

T +44 (0) 300 123 1032
F +44 (0) 191 376 2681
www.gov.uk/mmo

Mark O'Brien
Halite Energy Group Limited

Your reference: 1561
Our reference:
DCO/2014/00009

(By e-mail only)

17 June 2020

Dear Mr O'Brian,

Preesall Saltfield Underground Gas Storage Development Consent Order (DCO) 2015 (No.1561) Notice of Variation to Deemed Marine Licences under Schedule 7 of the order.

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO), as the Licensing Authority, has now completed its consideration of your request dated 7 February 2020 for a variation to the Deemed Marine Licence, under Section 72 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, of the Preesall Saltfield Underground Gas Storage DCO 2015. The variation requested to change the start date and extend the duration of the Deemed Marine Licence by three years.

The MMO has varied the Deemed Marine Licence in accordance with the information received from Halite Energy Group Limited.

Since this licence constitutes a statutory consent, the terms and conditions set out therein must be complied with in full and are also binding upon any agent, sub-contractor or third party who undertakes any activity to which it refers on your behalf. Please note the MMO received comments from the Environment Agency regarding other consents that require review, which have been added to Annex 1 of this letter.

Please find enclosed a notice of variation and revised DCO. This documentation is also publicly available on the MMO's website.

In accordance with regulation 3 of The Marine Licensing (Notices Appeals) Regulations 2011, you may appeal the notice of variation to the First-tier Tribunal. If you wish to appeal then in accordance with rule 22(1)(b) of the Tribunal Procedure (First-tier Tribunal) (General Regulatory Chamber) Rules 2009 (SI 2009/1976) you have 28 days from the date of the sending of the notice of variation to send or deliver a notice of appeal to the First-tier Tribunal.

Yours Sincerely



Emma Dowson
Marine Licensing Case Officer

D +44 (0) 20 789 55501

E Emma.Dowson@marinemanagement.org.uk

Annex 1 – Environment Agency Comments

Halite have a water abstraction licence (Licence Number NW/072/0400/001) that allows them to abstract a conditioned amount of water from Fleetwood Docks. To date this licence has yet to be used. The current licence is time-limited and will expire if the abstraction it authorises has not commenced by 17 July 2020. (Please be aware that the licence has already benefitted from a variation to secure an extension to the original date of 30 June 2016). There is currently a licence application from Halite to The Environment Agency Permitting Team to seek a further extension to July 2020.

Halite also have a Water Quality Consent to Discharge (017290628) (now known as Environmental Permits.) This has a number of conditions attached including requirements for baseline ecological surveys before commencement of any discharge. The details of the required environmental surveys are still to be agreed by the marine monitoring group that was convened for this end. To date there have been no applications to discharge the conditions of this permit. The Start date condition has been extended several times but the end date condition remains unaltered as 1 January 2026. This leaves a significantly reduced period of time for the pre-commencement surveys, and for the overall viability of the scheme.

We would like to highlight that any extensive delay to the project may mean that previous environmental assessments will need to be re-considered. We anticipate that any application for an extension to the discharge permit beyond 2026 will require new environmental assessments to take into account recent or future environmental changes (e.g. changes in the sea bed; or impacts of climate change).

