

PUBLIC CONSULTATION NOTICE

Carbon Storage Project

THE OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION, PRODUCTION, UNLOADING AND STORAGE (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2020

HyNet Carbon Dioxide Transportation and Storage Project – Offshore

Liverpool Bay CCS Limited (“LBA CCS Ltd”) has made an application for consent to the Oil and Gas Authority (“OGA”) in relation to the above project. The OGA now operates under the business name of the North Sea Transition Authority. A notice was previously published under Regulation 11(3)(c) in respect of this application for consent and the accompanying Environmental Statement on 14/03/2024. Further information is now available in respect of this project.

Summary of Project

Eni UK Limited, whose ultimate parent company is Eni SpA, is a leading partner of the Consortium delivering the HyNet North West Project, through their Eni group affiliate LBA CCS Ltd. LBA CCS Ltd is developing the HyNet Carbon Dioxide Transportation and Storage Project – Offshore (the “Development”). The Environmental Statement for the Development is dated February 2024 (reference no. **ES/2022/009**). The essential nature of the Development is the repurposing, installation and commissioning of infrastructure and the operation and maintenance of the wells and infrastructure for the transportation, injection, and storage of carbon dioxide (“CO₂”) at the Liverpool Bay depleted oil and gas reservoirs located within the carbon dioxide appraisal and storage license area (CS004). The Development covers United Kingdom, Offshore Licensed Blocks 110/13a, 110/13b, 110/14a, 110/14c and 110/15a. The water depth across the Development area is highly variable and ranges from 0.72 m to 35 m, with average water depths of 20 m below Lowest Astronomical Tide. The Development is located approximately 12 km to the north of the Welsh coastline and 2 km west of the English coastline. The distance to nearest international median line (UK/Ireland) is 60 nm. LBA CCS Ltd intends to repurpose the existing offshore natural gas import pipeline from Point of Ayr (PoA) Gas Terminal to become an export pipeline to transport CO₂ to the Douglas Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) platform, and onwards to the Hamilton Main, Hamilton North, and Lennox platforms for injection into the associated depleted oil and gas reservoirs. The Project is located entirely within the 12 nm limit of both Welsh and English territorial waters. The Development can be summarised as follows: a) the installation of a new Douglas CCS platform to replace the existing Douglas Process platform. This will receive CO₂ from the onshore PoA Terminal and distribute CO₂ to the Hamilton Main, Hamilton North, and Lennox wellhead platforms via the existing gas pipelines; b) utilisation of the existing Hamilton Main, Hamilton North, and Lennox reservoirs for the injection of 109 Mt of CO₂ for permanent geological storage over a 25-year period; c) the drilling and re-completion of injection and monitoring wells by side-tracking existing production wells; d) the installation of new sections of pipeline to connect the new Douglas CCS platform and the existing subsea natural gas pipelines; e) the installation of new topsides on the Hamilton Main, Hamilton North, and Lennox wellhead platforms; f) installation of two submarine 33kV power cables, with integrated fibre-optic cable connections from PoA Terminal onshore to the modified Douglas platform, and onward connections to the three satellite platforms; and g) monitoring and management of the LBA CCS storage sites during and after CO₂ injection in accordance with relevant regulatory requirements. This infrastructure has been assessed in the Environmental Statement for the Development and the planned schedule of activities is as follows: a) installation of the new Douglas CCS platform will be carried out over approximately two months commencing with the new jacket, piles, and topsides during Q2 2027; b) drilling, side-tracking, and re-completion of injection, monitoring, and sentinel wells from Q3/Q4 2024 until Q4 2026; c) the removal of the existing satellite platforms topsides and replacement with new during Q2/Q3 2027; d) electrical cable laying and pull in operations from Q3 2025 to Q2 2026; e) electrical cable tie-ins to the CCS platforms during Q2/Q3 2027; and f) first injection of CO₂ in Q4 2027.

Environmental Impact Assessment and Consent Process

In accordance with the above-mentioned Regulations, the project is subject to an environmental impact assessment procedure.

The OGA is responsible for deciding whether or not to grant consent for the project, but agreement to the grant of consent must be obtained from the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (“the Secretary of State”) prior to consent being granted. The Secretary of State’s decision on whether to agree to the grant of consent is based on the environmental impact assessment for the project.

The range of possible decisions in response to the application of consent is:

- the Secretary of State agrees to the OGA’s grant of consent following the Secretary of State’s conclusion regarding the environmental effects of the project, and the OGA grants consent, so the project may proceed;
- the Secretary of State refuses to agree to the OGA’s grant of consent following the Secretary of State’s conclusion regarding the environmental effects of the project, so the project may not proceed; or
- the Secretary of State agrees to the OGA’s grant of consent following the Secretary of State’s conclusion regarding the environmental effects of the project, but the OGA does not grant consent, so the project may not proceed.

Where the Secretary of State agrees to the grant of consent, conditions that LBA CCS Ltd must comply with may be attached to the agreement, including environmental conditions to avoid, prevent, reduce, or offset any significant adverse effects on the environment, and measure to monitor such conditions.

Notice of the decisions of the Secretary of State and OGA decisions for the project will be published at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-2020-eia-regulations#environmental-impact-assessments-eia> where information on the Secretary of State’s decision to agree to or refuse to agree to the grant of consent will also be made available.

Access to Further Information

Copies of this notice, the previous notice made under Regulation 11(3)(c), the summary of the project and the Environmental Statement can be viewed and downloaded at <https://hynethub.co.uk/> and at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-2020-eia-regulations#environmental-impact-assessments-eia>.

Access shall remain at least three months after the date on which the Secretary of State publishes the notice under Regulation 16(1) (publication of consent decisions).

A copy of the Environmental Statement and summary of the project may also be obtained by post or email. Requests should be made to: Eni UK Limited HSE Dept., Eni House, Ground Floor, 10 Ebury Bridge Road, London SW1W 8PZ. By email to Cerys.Percival@eni.com. By telephone: 0207 344 6000. By 16/12/2024.

Public Consultation

Representations, comments, or questions relating to the project may be made to the Secretary of State by 16/12/2024. All representations should quote reference number ES/2022/009 and may be made by letter or by email to: Business Support Team, Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment & Decommissioning, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, AB1 Building, Crimon Place, Aberdeen, AB101BJ. OPRED@Energysecurity.gov.uk

As permitted by Regulation 12(5)(c)(ix), the further information referenced in this notice has been made publicly available online, giving all interested parties an opportunity to engage with the Development. The further information is available in digital format at website: <https://hynethub.co.uk/>

Judicial Review

A person aggrieved by the grant of consent for a project may apply to the Court for leave / permission to apply for judicial review of the relevant decision or decisions. The United Kingdom has three separate legal systems; one each for England and Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland. The rules for any application for leave / permission to apply for judicial review may vary depending on where that application is made, but it is important to note that there are time limits for making any application and judicial review may only be available if the applicant has standing / a sufficient interest in the subject matter of the application. Further information about the process for seeking judicial review can be obtained from the Administrative Court (for England and Wales), the Court of Session (for Scotland) or the Judicial Review Office (Northern Ireland).