



Date: 5th June 2024

Permitting Support
NPS Sheffield
Environment Agency
Quadrant 2
99 Parkway Avenue
Sheffield
S9 4WF

Email: psc@environment-agency.gov.uk

Dear Sir/Madam,

**ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT APPLICATION REFERENCE: EPR/AP3328SQ/A001
REQUEST FOR PRIORITISATION OF PERMIT APPLICATION DETERMINATION**

This letter is to confirm the need for prioritisation of the permit application for the H2Teesside carbon capture enabled hydrogen production facility, reference EPR/AP3328SQ/A001.

The proposed installation would deliver low carbon hydrogen production at scale. It is well placed to support large-scale industrial decarbonisation, being located in one of the UK's major industrial clusters, with the potential to supply hydrogen to a number of industrial users, while linking into the Northern Endurance Partnership (NEP) Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) infrastructure on Teesside for the transportation and offshore storage of the carbon dioxide (CO₂) generated during the hydrogen production process.

The reasons we are requesting prioritisation are threefold:

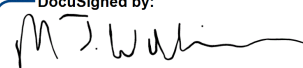
1. The above project is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and an application (Ref: EN070009) for a Development Consent Order (DCO) was submitted to the planning inspectorate in March 2024 and accepted on the 22nd April 2024. This DCO application is now proceeding through pre-examination. As such this environmental permit application is made in parallel with the DCO application in accordance with NSIP Advice Note Eleven, Annex D to facilitate the Environment Agency being able to comment on any technical matters arising during the examination and to also facilitate providing their preliminary opinion in relation to the granting of the environmental permit.
2. The project is one of eight that have been selected to support Track 1 of the UK Government's Cluster Sequencing Process. Release of funding by the Low Carbon Contracts Company for the projects at the final investment decision (FID) stage is dependent on both the DCO and environmental permit being granted. Prioritisation of the application will therefore expedite the determination processes and ensure that FID can be granted without jeopardising the delivery of the project.
3. There is an imperative and urgent need for the installation to provide energy security and scale up hydrogen production capability to support the transition to net zero and decarbonisation of the UK.

The National Policy Statement for Energy (NPS EN-1) states that “there is an urgent need for all types of low carbon hydrogen infrastructure to allow hydrogen to play its role in the transition to net zero” (para. 3.4.12). NPS EN-1 also makes clear that low carbon infrastructure, such as the proposed installation, is considered to be a ‘critical national priority’. Furthermore, the UK Hydrogen Strategy identifies low-carbon hydrogen as being critical for meeting the UK’s legally binding commitment to achieve net zero by 2050 and CCS enabled hydrogen production (i.e. blue hydrogen) is recognised in Government Policy as being able to provide the scale and reliability needed by industrial processes to decarbonise.

The project represents one of only two new hydrogen facilities selected by the UK Government as part of its Track-1 Project Negotiation List as part of Phase 1 of its cluster sequencing programme for CCS deployment. Once fully constructed and operational, the Project could deliver 12% of the Government’s 2030 10GW target for low-carbon hydrogen (1.2GW) and help meet the need for decarbonisation of emission-intensive industry.

Should you have any further queries arising from our submission then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

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Matthew Williamson – on behalf of H2Teesside Limited