



STUBLACH GAS STORAGE PROJECT
MINUTES OF LOCAL LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING (LLC)
HELD WEDNESDAY 16th DECEMBER 2009 AT
LACH DENNIS VILLAGE HALL

Chairperson:

Alan Leadbetter

Storengy UK Ltd

Attendees:

Ian Appleyard

Allstock Parish Council

John Beecroft

Byley Council

Mike Boag-Munroe

Cranage Parish Council

Rod Brookfield

Cheshire West & Chester Council

John Hardman

Lach Dennis Parish Council

John Whieldon

Ineos Enterprises

Julia Wilson

Allstock Parish Council

Jacques Badet (part time)

Storengy UK Ltd

John O'Donnell

Storengy UK Ltd

Rachel Jackson

Storengy UK Ltd

Apologies/ Non attendees:

Graham Aveyard

Cheshire West & Chester Council

Theresa Cash

Lach Dennis Parish Council

Tom Davies

Northwich Parish Council

Ray Dodd

Cheshire Community Action

Bob Robinson

Northwich Town Council

David Rouse

Lostock Parish Council

1. INTRODUCTIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

Apologies were read out to members of the LLC.

2. ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

R Dodd has still not produced the paperwork to sign off the application of Byley Village Hall for the donation of £2,850 for the car park and toilet lighting schemes. When discussed, it was confirmed that planning permission is required for the car park lighting and one objection had been received so Byley Village hall is looking to amend their application to include low level lighting.

R Brookfield to discuss the status of this application with R Dodd.

3. ENVIROMENTAL FUND

R Brookfield presented 2 applications to the fund in R Dodd's absence:

Byley Primary School – Ref 010

The school has requested £1,750 to provide internal shelving to a new external store room which will be used to store play equipment and musical instruments. The Local Authority will not fund this request and it is down to the PTA to find the funds.

Votes were carried in favour of this application. It has been given the full amount requested.

Byley Village Hall – Ref 011

The hall has requested £695 to upgrade the stage facilities by replacing the old curtain and painting the stage floor.

Votes were carried in favour of this application. It has been given the full amount requested.

4. PROJECT REVIEW

J O'Donnell provided an overview of the project to date:

The civil contractor is preparing the phase 2 wellheads. The stage 1 drilling contractor (drilling to a depth of 30 metres) is working on the first of the 6 wells. 5 wells are expected to be completed before Christmas. Drilling is scheduled to finish in the first week of January.

The site will close from 24th December through to 4th January except for the shift operators and security that will be onsite 24/7.

The landscaper has commenced his programme of gapping up hedgerows and this will continue through to April 2010.

10 cavities have been successfully started to be leached.

Casing is arriving on site ready for the Phase 2 drilling campaign in July 2010. There are currently 4 deliveries per day.

J Beecroft asked if phase 2 will be 9 wellheads.

A Leadbetter confirmed this is correct.

5. COMPLAINTS REVIEW

Storengy has received no complaints. Cheshire West and Chester Council have received no complaints related to the Stublach Project.

6. REVISED PLANNING DRAWINGS

A Leadbetter discussed the future of the Stublach Gas Storage Project.

Design of the Stublach Project has progressed and changed in a number of areas. This will mean submitting revised planning applications covering the changes and applying for a continuation of the project's Hazardous Substances Consent. These applications will be submitted in January 2010.

There are 5 key areas that require amendment:

Relocation of 3 Cavities

GDF Suez has at its disposal a number of very experienced Geologists. They have created a three dimensional computer model of the Stublach salt strata using the existing seismic information plus the data from Stublach Phase 1 drilling campaign carried out in 2008. The three dimension model has helped the geologists identify the optimum location for the cavities. The geologists have analysed the salt strata for depth, salt layer consistency, location of layers of marl. Their conclusion is that the location of caverns H310, H312 and H318 could be optimised by moving the caverns to the west side of the Stublach Site.

The relocation of the caverns meets all the criteria with respect to separation distances between caverns and local properties and all the caverns remain within the existing planning boundary. Also there will be no increase in the amount of gas to be stored in these caverns.

The road infrastructure will also need to be modified to provide access to the new cavity locations.

Beyond the geological benefits the relocation of the caverns also reduces the number of trees and hedgerows to be removed.

Cavern H310 is now located in an area where there is little

farming carried out. The access roads to H310, H312 and H318 no longer cross a public footpath. We have also sought to position the roads to minimise the impact on the tenant farmers.

Amendment to Size of Gas Compressor Station Footprint

GDF Suez has a different philosophy than was envisaged in the original planning application with respect to the construction of the gas compressor station. The conversion of the cavities from brine extraction to gas storage occurs over a six year period from 2013 to 2018 and as such it is planned to construct the gas compressor station in phases. The first phase of the Gas Compressor Station will be commissioned in 2013 with the second phase in 2015 and the third phase at a date to be confirmed (related to customer demand and market conditions).

To facilitate a phased construction approach it will be necessary to provide separation distances between the operational parts of the gas compressor station and the elements of the station undergoing construction. The impact of providing the separation distances has been to increase the size of the gas compressor station footprint. It should be noted that the gas compressor station, gas through put remains unchanged.

Stublach Grange Farmhouse

Stublach Grange Farm House has been unoccupied for over 5 years. The Project Hazardous Substance Consent conditions state the farmhouse cannot be used as a residential accommodation. Storengy has investigated whether the farmhouse could be used as a Control Room for the Gas Compressor Station, but have concluded that the building is too small and located on the wrong side of the station in relation to all the instrument control equipment located to the West. With the proposed increase in the size of the Gas Compressor Station, Stublach Grange Farm is now located inside the station security fence and as such is compromising the layout of equipment. Storengy would therefore like to demolish the farmhouse.

Storengy plans to minimise the waste associated with the demolition by reclaiming the slate and brick associated with the building.

Change in Design of the Gas Connection Compound

Storengy UK has signed a connection agreement with National Grid Gas to provide the Stublach Gas Storage facility access to the Gas National Transmission System. The connection point is located within the project's existing planning application boundary close to the A530 main site entrance.

The Gas Connection Compound will be made up two fenced areas one controlled by National Grid and the other by Storengy. Access will be provided by extending the existing road constructed for the Holford Gas Storage Project. The Planning

Application covers both areas of the compound.

The location of the compound has been moved 20 metres north of its original position to accommodate the gas connection point for the Holford Gas Storage Project.

Change in the Design of the Electrical Compound

Storengy UK Ltd has signed a connection agreement with Scottish Power (SP) to supply 60 MVA of electrical power. The electrical connection point is located within the project's existing planning application boundary close to Lostock Gralam and adjacent to SP existing Lostock Sub-Station.

The connection will involve SP extending their substation (for which planning permission is outside the scope of Storengy's application) and Storengy constructing a sub-station adjacent to the south-east corner of SP Sub-Station and providing a new access road.

Change in the Design of the Construction Compound

The initial existing construction compound was sized for the Storengy Team and its main contractor to manage the installation of the Brine and Water infrastructure. The construction of the Gas Compressor Station will require further accommodation for the contractor responsible for this aspect of the project.

The Construction Compound is a temporary facility with a number of the cabins being removed from site at the start of 2013. Some of the cabins will have to remain on site for the second and third phases of construction of the gas plant. It is planned to remove the Construction Compound by the end of 2015.

A Leadbetter showed attendees detailed drawings of the original proposal and the new proposal so they could draw comparisons.

The new proposal will mean that fewer trees will be felled, the roads will become shorter and less hedgerows will need to be removed.

The HSE have been consulted about the new proposals.

All documentation to support the new application will be submitted to Cheshire West and Chester Council in January. The Hazardous Substances Consent will need to be varied associated with change of design and change of control of the land

J Beecroft asked if there could be an increase in the number of evergreens planted.

A Leadbetter said he would consult with the landscaper to see if it would be possible.



7. OPEN DAY FEEDBACK

The Storengy Open Day held 21st November 2009 was a success. Activities were centred around Lach Dennis Village Hall with bus tours of the Stublach Site.

Attendees felt that Storengy UK met it's objectives: To provide an opportunity for the general public and community leaders to understand more about GDF Suez / Storengy / Stublach Gas Storage Project. To provide an informal atmosphere for the general public to voice opinions and concerns. To educate local schools on the Energy Industry and Gas Storage.

Storengy UK would like to thank all those that attended the day and contributed to its success.

8. OPEN FORUM

J Beecroft asked if there was a 3D model of the Stublach Site?

A Leadbetter confirmed that one is under construction and should be completed within the next few months.

***Date of next LLC meeting:
Wednesday 3rd March at 4pm, Lach Dennis Village Hall***

Dates for 2010:

***Wednesday 2nd June 4pm
Wednesday 1st September 4pm
Wednesday 1st Decermber 4pm***

***Circulation:
Attendees/ apologies plus Northwich and Middlewich libraries***