



Date: 13 December 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

**THE H2TEESSIDE PROJECT – LAND EITHER SIDE OF THE RIVER TEES WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF REDCAR AND CLEVELAND AND STOCKTON-ON-TEES ON TEESSIDE AND THE BOROUGH OF HARTLEPOOL IN COUNTY DURHAM**

**FURTHER CONSULTATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 42 ‘DUTY TO CONSULT’ OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008 & REGULATION 13 ‘PRE-APPLICATION PUBLICITY UNDER SECTION 48 (DUTY TO PUBLICISE)’ OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2017**

H2 Teesside Limited (the ‘Applicant’) is proposing to apply for development consent pursuant to Section 37 ‘Applications for orders granting development consent’ of the Planning Act 2008 (the ‘PA 2008’) from the Secretary of State (‘SoS’) for the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (‘DESNZ’) to authorise the construction, operation and maintenance of the H2Teesside hydrogen project (the ‘Project’) on land either side of the River Tees within the boroughs of Redcar and Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees on Teesside and Hartlepool within County Durham.

The Applicant consulted on the Project between 14<sup>th</sup> September and 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023 (‘the first consultation’) and is now carrying out further consultation (‘the second consultation’) on the Project in respect of a number of changes that have resulted to the Project Site boundary following further design development and technical assessments and responses to the first consultation.

**Background to the Project**

H2Teesside will be one of the UK’s largest hydrogen production facilities with a capacity of up to 1.2 gigawatts (‘GW’) thermal by 2030, representing more than 10% of the Government’s hydrogen production target of 10 GW by 2030. This equates to the production of approximately 160,000 tonnes of low carbon hydrogen per annum, with approximately two million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> being captured and stored each year.

The Project will use natural gas to produce hydrogen (known as ‘blue’ hydrogen) with the carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) created during the hydrogen production process being captured and compressed for onward transportation and storage, under agreement with the Northern Endurance Partnership (the ‘NEP’). NEP will store the CO<sub>2</sub> securely below ground within the Endurance store and other nearby CO<sub>2</sub> stores that NEP holds CO<sub>2</sub> storage licences for.

These are located approximately 145 kilometres ('km') offshore from Teesside under the North Sea.

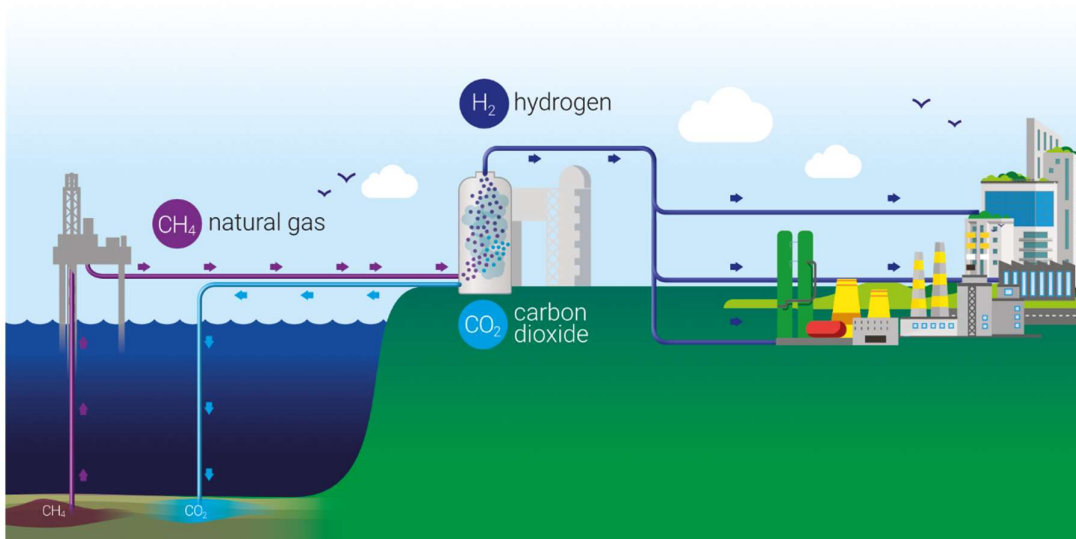
The onshore elements of the NEP infrastructure on Teesside are also known as the Net Zero Teesside ('NZT') Project and have been the subject of an application for development consent, in respect of which the SoS for DESNZ is expected to make a decision in the near future.

H2Teesside and NEP form part of the East Coast Cluster ('ECC'). The ECC has been selected as one of the first two carbon capture, usage and storage ('CCUS') clusters to be taken forward by the UK Government. The ECC has the potential to remove almost 50% of the UK's total industrial clusters carbon dioxide emissions, protect thousands of jobs and establish the region as a globally competitive climate friendly hub for industry and innovation. The ECC will include a diverse mix of low-carbon projects, including industrial carbon capture, low-carbon hydrogen production, negative emissions power, and power with carbon capture.

The low carbon hydrogen produced by the Project will be supplied via a new hydrogen pipeline network to existing businesses, helping heavy industry on Teesside reduce its carbon dioxide emissions and supporting the UK Government's commitment to reach to reach net zero by 2050.

It is anticipated that the proposed application for development consent will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate ('PINS'), acting on behalf of the SoS for DESNZ in Q1 2024.

The infographic below provides an overview of the 'blue' hydrogen processes.



Further information relating to the Project is provided in this letter and the Consultation Documents that are being made available (see further details below).

Any comments and representations you may have on the Project should be submitted to the Applicant no later than **23 January 2024**. Details of how to make comments/representations are provided later in this letter.

## **Section 42 'Duty to consult' & EIA Regulation 13 'Pre-application publicity under Section 48 (duty to publicise)'**

Section 42 of the PA 2008 'Duty to consult' requires prospective applicants for development consent (granted in the form of a 'Development Consent Order' or 'DCO') to consult on their proposed application with those persons specified in the PA 2008 and in regulations made pursuant to the PA 2008. These persons ('prescribed persons') include local authorities, prescribed consultation bodies and affected/potentially affected landowners and persons with other interests in the relevant land. The consultation must be carried out prior to submitting the application for development consent to PINS.

The Applicant has identified a number of persons and organisations, which it is required to consult for the purposes of Section 42 of the PA 2008. It has been determined that you or your organisation is, or may be, a 'prescribed person' for the purposes of Section 42. The Applicant therefore wishes to seek your views on its latest proposals for H2Teesside.

Section 48 of the PA 2008 'Duty to publicise' also requires applicants for development consent to publicise their proposed application by publishing a notice (a 'Section 48 Notice') once in a national newspaper, once in the London Gazette, and in the case of a project like H2Teesside that involves tidal waters in the UK marine area, in the Lloyds List and an appropriate fishing journal, and for at least two successive weeks in a local newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the land to which the project relates. The Section 48 Notice for the Project is being published as follows:

- Telegraph – 14 December 2023
- London Gazette – 14 December 2023
- Lloyds List – 14 December 2023
- Fishing News – 14 December 2023
- Northern Echo – 14 and 21 December 2023
- Teesside Gazette – 14 and 21 December 2023
- Darlington and Stockton Times – 15 and 22 December 2023

Regulation 13 of 'The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017' (the 'EIA Regulations') requires applicants, at the same time as publishing the Section 48 Notice, to send a copy of that notice to the 'consultation bodies' and to any person notified to the applicant by the SoS under EIA Regulation 11(1)(c).

A copy of the Section 48 Notice that is being published is appended to this letter in accordance with EIA Regulation 13.

### **The Applicant**

H2 Teesside Limited is indirectly owned by bp Plc ('bp'). bp or an affiliate thereof will be the lead developer and operator of the Project.

bp is an active global hydrogen participant and believes hydrogen could play a key role in its energy portfolio. It is a vital industrial decarbonisation solution and together with carbon capture and storage, which can play a critical role in securely and safely storing the vast majority of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions produced by heavy industry, will be critical to delivering net zero.

### **The Project Site**

The site for the Project (the 'Project Site') comprises land either side of the River Tees within boroughs of Redcar and Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees on Teesside and the borough of Hartlepool in County Durham. The current extent of the Project Site, taking account of the changes made following further design development and technical assessments and

responses to the first consultation, is approximately 508 hectares in total. National Grid References (NGRs) for the Project Site are provided below:

- Mid-point – 454719 524286
- North – 451309 526476
- East – 458760 521587
- South – 457001 520748
- West – 446938 521613

Plans are available within the 'Consultation Documents' (see further below) showing the current Project Site boundary.

### **Project Description**

The proposed application will, amongst other matters, seek development consent for the construction, operation and maintenance of:

- a hydrogen production plant of up to 1.2 GW thermal to be developed in two phases;
- a natural gas supply connection for the supply of natural gas to the hydrogen production plant;
- an air separation unit and or oxygen and nitrogen supply pipelines to supply these industrial gases for the hydrogen production process;
- an electricity grid connection to provide power to the Project;
- water supply and treatment and wastewater infrastructure;
- CO<sub>2</sub> capture and compression facilities and a connection to the NEP infrastructure for the transport and storage of the CO<sub>2</sub>;
- hydrogen distribution pipelines to supply the low carbon hydrogen to industrial off-takers across Teesside;
- other associated development, including hydrogen storage; external lighting; fencing and boundary treatment; security measures; surface water and foul water drainage systems; water, electricity, gas and other utilities connections; hard and soft landscaping; biodiversity mitigation and enhancement measures; temporary contractor facilities and construction laydown areas; vehicle access roads, crossing, parking and pedestrian and cycle facilities.

The hydrogen production plant and its associated development (e.g. natural gas supply connection, air separation unit/oxygen and nitrogen supply pipelines, electricity grid connection, water infrastructure, hydrogen storage and CO<sub>2</sub> capture and compression facilities and connection) and ancillary development will be located within the administrative area of the borough of Redcar and Cleveland. The hydrogen distribution pipelines corridors will extend either side of the River Tees to several potential industrial off-takers and encompass land within the administrative areas of the boroughs of Redcar and Cleveland, Stockton-on-Tees and Hartlepool.

All of the above elements will be included in the proposed application for development consent.

### **Changes to the Project Site Boundary**

A number of changes have resulted to the proposed Order Limits for the Project following further design development and technical assessments and responses to the first consultation.

The further design and technical work has allowed for some of the flexibility and optionality that was included at the time of the first consultation to be removed. This has resulted in a significant overall reduction in the proposed Order Limits from 1,350 hectares to 508 hectares.

A small number of additions have been made to the proposed Order Limits to accommodate works required for the Project.

The changes made to the proposed Order Limits are shown and described within the Consultation Documents listed below.

### **Environmental Impact Assessment**

The Applicant has notified the SoS in writing under Regulation 8(1)(b) of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the 'EIA Regulations') that it intends to provide an Environmental Statement ('ES') in respect of the Project. An ES will form part of the proposed application for development consent.

Information so far compiled about the Project's environmental impacts is contained in a Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR') and summarised in a Non-Technical Summary ('NTS') and were made available for the first consultation. A H2Teesside Project Update Brochure that includes information on whether the conclusions of the PEIR are affected by the changes to the Project is included with the Consultation Documents.

### **Consultation Documents**

The Consultation Documents relating to the Project, including plans and maps showing the nature and location of the Project can be downloaded via the below link to a secure fileshare site:

<https://dwd.ctit.co/url/fhjwzeicng2spvya>

The Consultation Documents include:

- a plan showing the extent of the current Project Site boundary edged in red and the areas that have been removed and those that have been added since the first consultation;
- a H2Teesside Project Update Brochure that includes information on whether the conclusions of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR') produced for the first consultation are affected by the changes to the Project that are the subject of this second consultation, which is also being sent to people living within the vicinity of the Project Site;
- the Preliminary Environmental Information Report and its Non-Technical Summary produced for the first consultation and accompanying plans and maps;
- the Consultation Brochure produced for the first consultation;
- the Consultation Leaflet produced for the first consultation, which was sent to people living within the vicinity of the Project Site; and
- the Section 48 Notice that is being published for the second consultation.

The Consultation Documents are available to download and view free of charge from the Project Website: [www.h2teesside.co.uk](http://www.h2teesside.co.uk) until 23 January 2024.

If you are unable to access the fileshare site or the Project Website, please email: [info@h2teesside.net](mailto:info@h2teesside.net) or telephone: 0800 080 3028 and you will be offered a paper copy of the Consultation Documents free of charge (with the exception of the PEIR which will be charged at a maximum of £250) or a USB device containing the Consultation Documents free of charge. Any details you provide to us via email or telephone will be subject to our Privacy Notice: <http://h2teesside.co.uk/privacy>

## **Responding to the Consultation**

If you wish to make comments or representations in respect of the Project, these should be sent to the Applicant. Please include your name and an address where any correspondence relating to the Project can be sent. Comments and representations may be submitted in the following ways:

**Email:**            [info@h2teesside.net](mailto:info@h2teesside.net)

**Post:**             **Freepost H2TEESSIDE**

**Telephone:**    **Freephone 0800 080 3028**

**Project Website:** [www.h2teesside.co.uk](http://www.h2teesside.co.uk)

Any comments received will be analysed by the Applicant and any appointed agent of the Applicant, and copies may be made available in due course to the SoS, PINS and other relevant statutory authorities so that your comments can be noted. For certain parties, those who own an interest in land or are affected by the Project, the Applicant is under a statutory duty to publish names and addresses as part of its development consent application. In respect of other people, we will request that your personal details are not placed on public record and these will be held securely by the Applicant in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and the General Data Protection Regulation and used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent development consent application and, except as noted above, will not be passed to third parties. Please refer to our Privacy Notice: <http://h2teesside.co.uk/privacy>

Please note that all comments and representations must be received by the Applicant no later than **11.59pm on 23 January 2024**.

Yours faithfully

**Matthew Williamson – on behalf of H2Teesside Limited**

Enc. Section 48 Notice