ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

liverpool bay ccs

INTRODUCTION

Liverpool Bay CCS Limited (LBCCS) is leading the development of the Liverpool Bay carbon dioxide (CO_2) transportation and storage project (The Liverpool Bay Transport and Storage Project) to serve the HyNet North West Industrial Decarbonisation Cluster.

HyNet North West is the UK's leading industrial decarbonisation project which aims to unlock a low carbon future in the north west of England and north Wales by tackling CO_2 emissions from industry and supporting economic growth in the region. This factsheet outlines the actions we are taking to minimise the environmental impact during various stages of the project, contributing to the Project's main benefit of tackling climate change.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Projects like the Liverpool Bay Transport and Storage Project need to be supported by an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). These are assessed at the planning stage by the relevant determining body such as the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero. Once approved they are carried out by LBCCS.

The EIA process identifies the project's likely effects across a range of environmental topics and outlines actions to avoid, prevent, reduce or offset these impacts. The process involves:

- Scoping to understand the appropriate scale of the assessment.
- Consulting with stakeholders.
- Considering alternative solutions.
- Understanding current environmental conditions using surveys.
- Deciding how to address and mitigate the effects of the proposals on the environment.
- Monitoring changes in the environment during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Liverpool Bay Transport and Storage Project.
- Assessing the significance of the effects of the proposals on the environment.
- Finding out the full effects of other developments in the area and the Liverpool Bay Transport and Storage Project on the environment.

This process is applied to environmental topics such as air quality, arboriculture, climate change, ecology, flood risk, greenhouse gases, ground conditions, heritage, landscape and visual amenity, major accidents and disasters, materials and waste, noise, population and human health, transport, water environment and cumulative effects.

ENVIRONMENTALLY-LED DESIGN

We have sought to reduce the impacts of our proposals as much as possible through environmentally-led design and engagement with stakeholders. This has involved:

- **detailed field surveys** – Including Great Crested Newt surveys, Habitat Suitability Index surveys, and Bat detection surveys. These surveys provide information about the current environment and form the baseline for the assessments.
- **assessing significant effects** – Teams of professionals in each of the environmental topics use their expertise to assess the significance of an effect based on questions such as, the likelihood of occurrence, the geographical extent of the impact, and whether the effect is reversible. The significance of each effect is based on 'sensitivity (or importance) of the environment' and 'the magnitude of change' for each environmental topic.

- **design modification** – As the assessments progress, mitigation measures are embedded into the design of the Liverpool Bay Transport and Storage Project. Mitigation measures could include identifying areas for pond creation with grassland to benefit great crested newts. Other mitigation measures that are not embedded in the design will also be implemented during the Construction, Operation and Decommissioning Stage to reduce any potential effects.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT DURING CONSTRUCTION

Before construction begins preparation activities will take place, which will include pre-construction ecological surveys, geotechnical and ground stability surveys, setting out access routes in consultation with landowners and occupiers, and site clearance.

During construction, regular site monitoring inspections will be carried out by the Construction Contractor in accordance with the detailed Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) which will be produced in line with the Outline Environmental Management Plan (OEMP) included as part of the Planning Applications.

These inspections will be associated with, but may not be limited to: compliance with licenses, permits and wider consents; dust monitoring; noise monitoring; ground and surface water pollution prevention; and vegetation and wildlife protection. If any incidents or observations that stop construction work are recorded, the wider construction team will be notified and additional procedures put in place if required.

Depending on when activities are being undertaken, the frequency of inspections may increase when activities have a high potential to cause or increase nuisance, such as, windy conditions which may increase dust movement.

Further environmental actions or commitments during the construction period will be documented in the OEMP.

Examples of the measures in the OEMP include; using covered skips to reduce the risk of materials blowing out and contaminating surroundings and ensuring lighting at the above ground installations (AGI) are only used for security or safety purposes.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT DURING OPERATION AND DECOMMISSIONING

Towards the end of the construction period an Operation and Maintenance Environmental Management Plan (OMEMP) will be produced by LBCCS, and a Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) will be produced by the Decommissioning Contractor.

These will cover environmental management measures for the operational and decommissioning stages which will be based on the measures in the OEMP.

These measures may include continued inspections of groundwater and maintenance of the AGIs, for example.

The Liverpool Bay Transport and Storage Project is expected to be in operation for 25 years, depending on storage capacity for CO_2 at Liverpool Bay. Once the pipelines are no longer operational the decommissioning stage will take place.

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

For more information about the Liverpool Bay Transport and Storage Project please visit our website **hynethub.co.uk** or email our team at **hello@hynethub.co.uk**

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