ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

INTRODUCTION

HyNet is one of the UK's leading industrial decarbonisation projects which aims to unlock a low carbon future in the north west of England and north Wales by reducing carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions from industry and supporting economic growth in the regions.

As part of the project delivery for a carbon capture and storage (CCS) system to serve the HyNet industrial cluster, three spur pipeline developments are proposed by Liverpool Bay CCS Limited (a member of the Eni SpA group) to connect to the HyNet Carbon Dioxide Pipeline, which was granted development consent in March 2024. The Spur Pipeline proposed developments will allow for carbon dioxide to be safely transported between selected industrial emitters of CO_2 and the CO_2 storage facilities in Liverpool Bay. This factsheet outlines the actions we are taking to minimise environmental impact during the various stages of the project, contributing to the Project's main benefit of tackling climate change.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Projects like the Protos, Runcorn and Padeswood Spur Pipeline Proposed Developments need to be assessed by the local planning authorities to decide if an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) must be carried out by Liverpool Bay CCS Limited as the Applicant.[1]

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.
- Consultation with stakeholders.
- Consideration of 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 spur pipelines.
- 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 Proposed Spur Pipeline Developments on the environment.

This process is applied to the following environmental topics; 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

(1) Each Spur Pipeline is classified as a 'Schedule 2' project, due to their size and scope exceeding the threshold of Part 10(k) of Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 and Part 10(k) of Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017. For 'Schedule 2' projects the Local Planning Authority determines if an Environmental Impact Assessment must be carried out.

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 Spur Pipelines. 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 Liverpool Bay CCS Limited, 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 Spur Pipeline Proposed Developments are 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 the Padeswood Spur Pipeline Proposed Development, the draft Environmental Statement and draft OEMP can be viewed for comment during the statutory pre-application consultation period.

For the Runcorn Spur Pipeline Proposed Development, the Environmental Statement and OEMP will be submitted with the planning application.

For the Protos (West AGI) Spur Pipeline Proposed Development, an Environmental Management Plan and OEMP will be submitted with the planning application.

For more information about the Spur Pipeline Proposed Developments please visit our website **hynethub.co.uk/** or email our team at **hello@hynethub.co.uk**

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