

**HALITE COMMUNITY LIAISON PANEL MEETING**  
**THURSDAY 12<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2020 AT THE NORTH EUSTON HOTEL,**  
**FLEETWOOD COMMENCING AT 6PM**

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**Attendees**

Mark O'Brien, Managing Director, Halite Energy Group Ltd  
Karen Archer, Project Administrator, Halite Energy Group Ltd

Phil Bracewell, Alkali with Preesall Angling Club  
Pat Greenhough, Preesall  
Councillor Dianne Booth, Stalmine Parish Council  
William Hargreaves, Fleetwood Civic Society  
Skipper Steven Frith, Local Fisherman  
Claire Rimmer, No Gas Storage  
David Thow, Head of Planning Services, Wyre Council  
Alison Tarpey-Black, Comms Manager for Cat Smith, MP, Lancaster & Fleetwood  
Councillor Tony Johnson, Preesall Town Council  
Councillor Lynda Woodhouse, Preesall Town Council

**Apologies Received From**

David Evans, Local Resident  
Councillor Paul Moon, Wyre Council  
Garry Payne, CEO, Wyre Council  
Councillor Stephen Clarke, Garstang/Fleetwood West & Cleveleys West  
Phil Robson, Wyre River Trust  
Councillor Phil Orme, Wyre Council

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**1. Chairman Introductions**

The Chairman of the Group, Mark O'Brien thanked everyone for attending and all members introduced themselves. Mark advised that Minutes would be prepared following the meeting and shared with the Group.

**2. Terms of Reference – Agreement Required**

A new Terms of Reference document had been created for the CLP Meeting members. This document was handed out and any feedback is to be emailed through to Karen at the Halite offices. The findings will then be presented at the next meeting. All agreed with this course of action.

### **3. Project Update**

Mark then delivered a presentation on the current status of the project. Halite does not currently have Final Investment Decision (FID). Talks are progressing with a new investor and the new owners NPL will also be funding the project going forward. However, he advised that when the project is implemented it is very likely FID will be achieved. Halite is now working to ensure that the final 3 Requirements are submitted to the Council and discharged. Mark added however that it is likely that there will be a need to do more monitoring surveys prior to any works commencing on the wider project build. In this respect he had visited the HSE offices in Bootle, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) in Newcastle and has been tasked with re-engaging the Marine Management Liaison Panel shortly. Also, he advised that an agreement had been finalised with the Knott End Golf Club in December 2019.

A copy of the presentation is attached to these Minutes for information.

### **4. Questions & Answers Session**

*Q. What is the hold up with the project? It has been many years with no activity. Is it going to keep on schedule or miss the deadline to get started? How will it get to FID?*

A. NPL have committed to finance this project. There is also an external investor who is coming on board. The project is still on schedule to commence works prior to July 2020.

*Q. What requirements are still outstanding and how will these be implemented?*

A. There are 3 Requirements that need to be finalised namely:  
Requirement 18 – Ground/Surface Water & Pollution  
Requirement 27 – Noise Management  
Requirement 28 – Dust Management & Mitigation

Talks are ongoing with Wyre Council to progress the Requirements and the relevant documentation is being prepared to submit.

*Q. What about the dust - what are your plans to deal with it? Are there dust monitoring stations and where will they be? Areas most likely to be affected are the golf course and the cottages at Knott End. What reassurances can be given?*

A. The dust will be dampened down. Dust receptors have already been identified. An environmental study has been undertaken and the area will undergo monitoring to meet the strict guidelines already set in place by the DCO.

David Thow also mentioned that all paperwork relating to the Halite Project and the Requirements that had to be met could be found on the Council website. If local people had concerns they could email the Council. Anyone wishing to do this could

go onto the Wyre Council website and type in HALDIS. This will bring up all the requirements that have been discharged so far and any current pending applications.

Q. What are your plans with regards to starting the project prior to the DCO deadlines being reached?

A. The plan is to commence work on a section of the haul road. This construction is on track to start in May or June 2020.

It was pointed out by David that planning regulations will have to be adhered to. There are about 40 requirements, many of which require details to be approved in order that the development (or stage of development) may commence. Any proposal to change any requirements would have to go through the Secretary of State to agree any amendments.

Q. Which part of the haul road do you refer to when you say you are starting a section of the haul road?

A. It is a section between the A588 and Back Lane. It is away from the main road. There is a monitoring programme which still has to be agreed in order to ensure the Project conforms to regulations. The Council will also be closely monitoring the work and if there is a problem they will require that this is corrected immediately.

Q. What about mud on the road? There is no wheel washing facility on Back Lane?

A. There are local wheel washing facilities at Hall Gate Lane and there may be one required at Cemetery Lane/Back Lane crossing. Project will be monitored to see if additional wheel washing facilities may be required at any other point.

Q. Local residents still have concerns about the noise. Several CLP members raised the impact this would have on local communities, in particular the residents at Fleetwood Harbour Village.

A. Acoustic covers may be erected at the site and anywhere that work is being undertaken. There are limits on the levels of noise and actions to cease work if they are exceeded. In this respect additional covers will be introduced but noise issues are not expected to be substantial.

Q. What about the brine - why cannot it be used say in the food industry, rather than it being pumped back into the sea where it will kill many species of fish and plant life? Also the diffuser sticks out of the sea regularly. More surveys need to be carried out and not just in the winter months but when there is a large volume of life on the seabed in say August.

A. We have already tried to find different uses for the brine but it is unfortunately not viable so at the current time we continue to look to discharge the brine into the sea. We have a marine licence, extraction licence and discharge licence. However, more studies will need to be undertaken and it will be borne in mind when we need to carry out these surveys regarding the time of year they are undertaken. They will also be carried out as long as required to provide meaningful results and in the Indicative Time-Line of Events there is a period of 1-3 years which has been allocated to carry out such testing.

Q. Honeycomb coral is now growing on the beach at Rossall near where the outfall pipe will be. In September it resembles a coral reef. The diffuser is 4 metres high. With an easterly wind the tide would drop down - like the diffuser at Bispham which sticks out of the water. This is something that would need to be monitored every 6 months for the first 2 years. The addition of the brine to the water is going to kill the honeycomb, endangered species and many different forms of sea-life, as well as the fish and shell crustaceans. There is also a need that continual monitoring and real-time monitoring takes place.

A. This will be monitored by the Environment Agency and Halite will pay for this work to be undertaken. Halite will also liaise with Skipper Steven Frith and William Hargreaves from Fleetwood Civic Society in respect of timing and also to gain their knowledge on the issues with the seabed being disturbed to look at possible ways of avoiding this. The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and the Environment Agency (EA) will specify, following discussions with the Marine Monitoring Group (MMG), the monitoring required. Halite will therefore need to undertake this monitoring according to these set requirements.

Q. Would it not be useful for a member of the local Civil Society to be able to attend the Marine Monitoring Group which is going to be resurrected? It has been tried in the past but the answer from the MMO has been to decline such a request in order to keep numbers small.

A. The Marine Monitoring Group consists of members from the following organisations – The Environment Agency, The Marine Maritime Organisation and the North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority. However, an approach will be made by Mark to the Group to see if they will consider adding an additional local member. Claire Rimmer will email the details of the person interested in joining under separate email to Mark O'Brien.

Q. What has happened to the Halite website and are there any plans to start sending out brochures/flyers to the local community to advise what is happening with the project? Is there also a Halite “hotline” and a Wyre Council “hotline” that can be contacted by residents who may have concerns about the project?

A. The Halite website has now been closed, however a new website for Halite is being created by NPL Group. As soon as this is available, details will be shared with the Group. This will have all the project plans included on this site. We would seek advice from Local Councillors on the best method of informing locals. Wyre Council does not have a specific hotline, but alleged breaches of planning control can be reported via an on line form on the Council’s website ([https://www.wyre.gov.uk/forms/form/8/en/planning\\_enforcement\\_complaint\\_report\\_form](https://www.wyre.gov.uk/forms/form/8/en/planning_enforcement_complaint_report_form)) or by contacting the Council on 01253 891000 and asking to report an alleged breach of planning control, and the contact centre operative will help a person complete a form with their concerns over the phone for that to be escalated for action. Anyone who needs to speak to Halite urgently can either call the landline number 01772 672244 or email Karen or Mark on the following emails : [karen.archer@halite.net](mailto:karen.archer@halite.net) or [mark.obrien@nplenergy.com](mailto:mark.obrien@nplenergy.com)

## **5. Any Other Business**

There was a request for more local consultations to take place, especially in the run up to any works being carried out on the project. It was suggested that meetings are undertaken at both Preesall and Knott End to explain the changes to the local communities.

Mark advised that he will arrange to meet with Councillor Tony Johnson from Preesall Town Council in the next week to discuss this after which dates will be arranged to hold two local community meetings prior to our next CLP event.

It was suggested by the CLP that future meetings be held every 8 weeks rather than 12 weeks to keep everyone up-to-date with progress. This was agreed and a diary note has been made to arrange the next CLP Meeting in June 2020. Details of timings and venue will be circulated by Karen in due course.

Items to be included on the next CLP Agenda should include an update on the current situation and a further Questions and Answers session. This was agreed and will be included accordingly.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.