

APPENDIX 2 CONSULTATIONS

APPENDIX 2.1 SUMMARY OF CONSULTEE RESPONSES

Organisation	Reply Date	Type	Comments
Agri Food and Biosciences Institute	22/12/08	✉	Article 6 assessment will be required. Hydrographic modelling of dispersal rate of dissolved salt and baseline benthic survey to include towed video and/or diver sampling. Details of proposed benthic monitoring programmes within areas surrounding outfall.
Belfast Harbour Commissioners Carrickfergus Borough Council Chief Executive Carrickfergus Borough Council Environmental Services Carrickfergus Borough Council Development Services Civil Aviation Authority Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside	04/02/09	✉	no comments
Crown Estates	05/01/09	💻	no comments, except clarification of planning procedure
Department of Agriculture Agri-Environment Management Branch Department of Agriculture & Regional Development Fisheries & Rural Policy Division	11/12/08	💻	no restrictions re Plant Health Order (Northern Ireland) 2006 on the movement of soil. No comment from forest service
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment Principal Quarry Inspector	10/01/09	💻	fisheries contact info given
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment Health and Safety Executive	12/01/08	✉	drilling must comply with latest H&S legislation. Borehole Sites and Operations Regulations (NI) 1995. Power Station is subject to the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations (NI) 2000. Must take account of existing land use such as wayleaves for existing high pressure gas pipelines.
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment Energy Branch	09/01/09	💻	definite need for project, however conscious of potential environmental impact. Recommends contacting DETI minerals branch/GSNI

Organisation	Reply Date	Type	Comments
Northern Ireland Environment Agency Natural Heritage	21/12/08	✉	acknowledgement of receipt
	12/01/09	✉	Evaluation of potential impacts on Larne Lough ASSI /SPA required. Assessment of utilisation of open coast by breeding seabirds required. Assessment of impact on countryside bird populations and breeding black guillemots required.
Northern Ireland Environment Agency Waste Management and Contaminated Land Unit	08/12/09	☎	confirmation that NIEA Waste Management unit are regarding the various facility areas as one overall site and that reuse of site-derived material would not require waste authorisation licensing. Mobile plant equipment will require PPC licensing
Northern Ireland Environment Agency Water Management Unit	27/01/09	✉	scoping opinion offering list of topics which should be covered in EIS and how these topics should be addressed
Northern Ireland Environment Agency Land and Resource Management	28/01/09	✉	(received through Planning Service) information on licensed wastes/infilling sites
Northern Ireland Environment Agency Countryside Management	28/01/09	✉	soil map of northern section of Islandmagee sent
Northern Ireland Environment Agency Industrial Pollution and Radiochemical Inspectorate	25/11/08	✉	not an activity that would be subject to regulation under the inspectorate. Consider the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 2000 and notify HSE. Also contact Natural Heritage dept.
Northern Ireland Environment Agency Air and Environmental Quality Section	26/11/08	✉	contact relevant district councils, gives air quality baseline info
Northern Ireland Environment Agency Built Heritage	26/02/09	✉	information on WW2 heritage archaeological exclusion zone close to pipeline corridor.
Northern Ireland Environment Agency Maritime Archaeology	22/12/08	📄	geophysical survey and possible diver inspection needed of brine pipeline route.
Fire Authority for Northern Ireland	09/01/09	✉	Info on relevant legislation, Risk Card for power station may need to be re-assessed and updated, impact on ASSI
Fisheries Conservancy Board for Northern Ireland	03/12/08	✉	no objection to proposal
	15/12/09	📄	list of items to consider in EIS regarding preserving

Organisation	Reply Date	Type	Comments
			fisheries and water bodies.
Geological Survey of NI	04/12/08	✉	EIS should include details of geological structure right down to salt, esp igneous intrusions and faulting.
			Submit EIS after borehole. Also full details of geological conditions for brine route. Consider potential impacts on groundwater.
	14/01/09	✉	Further information on content GSNI are be seeking within the EIS and contact details.
George Best Belfast City Airport	23/12/08	✉	no comments
Larne Borough Council Chief Executive			
Larne Borough Council Environmental Health	07/01/08	✉	list of items to consider in EIS
Larne Borough Council Technical Services			
Larne Golf Club	05/08/09	💻	requested a meeting to discuss intake option crossing their property
MCA Belfast Marine Office			
Ministry of Defence Headquarters			
Ministry of Defence Safeguarding and Bye-Laws Section	27/11/08	✉	no safeguarding objections
National Trust			
NI Chamber of Commerce and Industry			
NI Health Promotion Agency			
NI Tourist Board			
NI Water			
NIE	26/11/08	☎	Need details of power requirements, where connection to the grid will be and rig heights. Possible safety issue.
NIE	22/12/08	✉	details sent of existing transmission lines and seek information of future power requirements
Northern Health and Social Services Board	15/12/08	✉	EIS should include risk assessment and outline the policies and procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency.
Northern Ireland Housing Executive			
Northern Ireland Office			
Northern Ireland Tourist Board			

Organisation	Reply Date	Type	Comments
Phoenix Natural Gas Planning Service, Department of the Environment Landscape Section	08/12/08	✉	no specific info held for site. List of general landscape and visual issues that should be addressed in the EIS.
Planning Service, Department of the Environment Special Studies Section (HQ)	02/12/08	✉	requires pre-application confirmation of EIS requirement . Need to send 14 copies of OS map showing area of development.
Planning Service, Department of the Environment Divisional Planning Manager			
Port of Larne	25/11/08	✉	can't see any major impact on port, let them know if shipping materials requirements are needed
Premier Power Premier Transmission			
RNLI	23/01/09	✉	unlikely to have any effect on lifeboats. If potential hazard to maritime activity, contact information.
Roads Service, Department of the Environment	03/12/08	💻	Area is covered by northern division of roads service. Query whether same project as borehole. EIS should cover traffic arising from development, numbers, times of operation, access, visibility etc.
Rural Community Network Rural Development Council for NI			
The RSPB Northern Ireland	05/05/09	💻	core data information submitted and proposals for standard mitigation measures.

APPENDIX 2.2 JUNE 09 PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROJECT LEAFLET

Front cover



Centre Left

Project aims

Islandmagee Storage Limited proposes to store gas in salt caverns a mile below Larne Lough. The project will help ease the management of the UK and Ireland's energy needs on a day-to-day basis.

www.islandmageestorage.com

Who's involved?

The Islandmagee Storage Project is a joint venture of Portland Gas plc, developer of a gas storage facility in Dorset, GB and Northern Ireland Energy Holdings, the owner of the gas pipeline between Scotland and Northern Ireland (SNIP).

Why do we need to store gas?

- **Gas storage gives greater security of supply.** Natural gas is an extremely important source of energy, currently contributing 39% of the UK's energy needs. Over 90% of gas supplies are now imported from GB to the island of Ireland. Northern Ireland is wholly dependent on GB for its supplies. Northern Ireland and Ireland are becoming increasingly dependent on gas for electric power generation with approximately 60% of Northern Ireland's electricity produced by gas-fired power stations.
- More than two thirds of the world's gas supply comes from just four countries: Russia, Iran, Algeria, and Qatar. The island of Ireland is therefore at the very end of the Eurasian gas infrastructure network.

- The Islandmagee facility is being designed to store 500 million cubic metres of gas – equivalent to 60 times the peak daily demand of Northern Ireland – providing excellent security of supply in the event of a supply interruption.
- **Gas storage can help to manage price hikes.** Being able to purchase gas when prices are low (e.g. summer) and store it for use when demand increases (e.g. winter) will even out fluctuations in price for large scale users such as electricity suppliers and large businesses. This should result in lower gas and electricity prices for domestic consumers and small businesses.

Why Islandmagee?

Larne Lough is the only place in Ireland where a suitable underground salt sequence has been found. In 1981 a borehole (known as Larne-2) was drilled close to the docks in Larne encountering a 113 metres thick sequence of Permian salt at a depth of 1,688 metres.



Centre Right



A detailed seismic survey undertaken in October and November 2007 on behalf of the project by expert geophysical engineers confirmed the presence of a suitable salt sequence at 1,400 metres below sea level close to Ballylumford.

In addition to the favourable geophysical properties of the area, Islandmagee already contains the main infrastructure required for gas storage:

- It is close to the gas network – the SNIP pipeline runs from Scotland to Ballylumford. In addition, the Belfast Transmission Pipeline runs from the power station along Islandmagee towards Carrickfergus and Belfast.
- It is close to a major electricity supply, needed to run compression equipment

to put the gas into the caverns and operate brine pumps for the creation of the caverns.

- It is close to a major body of water, needed to supply water for leaching (dissolving) the salt to create the caverns. Also the open sea to the east of Islandmagee will be suitable to disperse the salt thereafter.

Why salt?

- Opportunities for a safe and environmentally-friendly method of storing gas are relatively few. One of the safest and most environmentally-friendly methods of storing large quantities of gas is deep underground within caverns created within salt sequences. This is a tried and tested method, in use all over the world for more than 40 years.
- There are approximately 70 salt storage facilities in use around the world with many more under construction.

- Storage of natural gas within salt is restricted to areas where salt sequences are sufficiently thick to create caverns. Within the UK, salt is of Triassic or older Permian age and is limited in its sub-surface distribution to NW England, Yorkshire, Dorset and Northern Ireland.

Is it safe?

- Yes. The technology is tried and tested and in use all over the world – particularly in Germany, which has some of the most demanding safety requirements in existence.
- The facility will conform to the Health and Safety Executive's stringent safety regulations. Further information on general safety principles behind salt cavern gas storage can be found on the Health and Safety Executive website at www.hse.gov.uk/gas/supply/saltcavity.htm



www.islandmageestorage.com

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How would the caverns be created?

- For the Islandmagee Storage Project, seven boreholes would be drilled from a site close to Ballylumford Power Station. The boreholes would reach beneath Larne Lough to a depth below the Lough of approximately 1,400 metres.
- Seawater will be pumped down the boreholes, gradually dissolving away the salt to form a cavern at the site of each borehole where gas can be stored safely. Seven caverns are planned altogether.
- The brine (salt) solution created by dissolving the caverns will be piped out to sea where the currents will disperse it rapidly within a very short distance from the outfall. This ensures no increase of salinity (salt) in the seawater in local fishing areas.

Is the facility environmentally friendly?

Yes. The project takes account of the area's special beauty and wildlife, on land and sea.

The Islandmagee Storage Team is carrying out a full and detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in relation to this project. This extensive exercise will examine a wide variety of terrestrial and marine ecology, geology and hydrology in the area and study the level of potential impact on residents in relation to noise, visual impact etc. It will ensure that impacts from construction are minimised and that the modest surface facilities are sited sensibly and landscaped where appropriate.

How will the development benefit Islandmagee and Northern Ireland?

In addition to helping to secure gas and electricity supplies, the project will provide up to 200 jobs during construction and a number of permanent jobs will be created in the longer term.

What next?

The Islandmagee Project Team, which comprises a range of experts, including RPS from Belfast managing the EIA process, and DEEP from Germany advising on the subsurface cavern geology and engineering, will be gathering feedback on the various options which have been put forward in relation to the infrastructure required for the scheme and taking this into consideration before working up preferred designs.


If you have a question or suggestion for the team, please email info@islandmageestorage.com.




Islandmagee
Storage



APPENDIX 2.3 JUNE 09 PUBLIC CONSULTATION QUESTIONNAIRE



Islandmagee Storage



PROPOSED GAS STORAGE SCHEME

PUBLIC CONSULTATION QUESTIONNAIRE

We would appreciate if you could take a few moments to fill in our questionnaire, which will help us to better understand the issues surrounding the development of gas storage caverns beneath Larne Lough.

Association with Islandmagee:
Commercial ☐ **Recreational** ☐ **Residential** ☐
Other (Please Specify) _____

Do you have a preference for any of the suggested sea water intake locations?

Intake #1 (Castle Robin Bay)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Intake #3 (Adjacent to Wellhead Option B)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Intake #2 (Barr's Point)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Intake #4 (Adjacent to Wellhead Option A)	<input type="checkbox"/>

We would welcome any specific comments on the intake of sea water

Do you have a preference for either of the proposed wellpad sites?

Wellpad Option A	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wellpad Option B	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Do you feel that the suggested location of the brine outfall is appropriate? Y/N
(If no, can you please explain why and put forward any alternative sites you feel we should consider?)

What do you feel are the main issues with the proposed development?

Do you have any information you feel would be relevant to the Environmental Impact Assessment?

Please use this space for any additional comments that you have on the proposed development.

If you wish to be kept updated on our progress, please include your contact details overleaf:
Thank you for submitting your comments

NAME _____
ORGANISATION _____
ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____
E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

If you would prefer to post us your completed questionnaire, please return it to:

Sophie Gilloway
Senior Environmental Scientist
RPS Consulting Engineers
74 Boucher Road
Belfast
BT12 6RZ