

National Planning Framework 4 Team
Scottish Government
Area 2F South, Victoria Quay
Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ
(Letter sent electronically to scotplan@gov.scot)

27th April 2020

Dear National Planning Framework 4 Team,

Letter of support for the Scottish Government’s National Planning Framework: Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) Network to support industrial decarbonisation, thermal generation, and the production and transmission of large scale to low-carbon and renewable hydrogen.

I am writing as a founding member of North East Carbon Capture Utilisation Storage (NECCUS) to give my organisation’s support to the above-mentioned project proposal for consideration as part of the National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4). The proposal is attached for reference.

The content of this proposal was co-ordinated by Scottish Government’s CCUS Policy team as it is recognised that the current “Carbon Capture and Storage Network and Thermal Generation” project accepted as part of NPF3 process in 2014 is limiting in terms of the scope it covers. This proposal, which Opportunity North East contributed in developing, specifies the national importance of linking the largest CO₂ emitting and potentially largest hydrogen utilisation sites in the south with the strategically important CO₂ storage sites and hydrogen production facilities in the north.

CCUS is central to Scotland’s ability to respond to the global climate emergency and limit the scale of impact to climate change. Indeed, the advice from the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) describes CCUS as a “necessity, not an option” to achieve net zero emissions. We are fortunate in the North East of Scotland to be home to a number of key strategic energy transition projects, including Acorn CCS at the St Fergus. Developing national CCUS Infrastructure to link St Fergus site, potentially including CO₂ imports via Peterhead port, to other industries that are currently key pillars of Scotland’s economy will help secure a sustainable future as part of Scotland’s journey to Net Zero by 2045.

Similarly, developing a hydrogen network in Scotland, to link the large-scale hydrogen production potential from natural gas reforming at St Fergus site, via the Acorn Hydrogen project, to potential large scale hydrogen industrial users in the Grangemouth area is vital to the development of any future Scottish hydrogen economy. This will further enhance important ongoing activities in the region such as the Aberdeen Hydrogen Hub project and the proposed Energy Transition Zone, located near the new Aberdeen Harbour South development, as well as attract potential future hydrogen-production related business, such as offshore floating hydrogen production systems being pioneered by the ERM Dolphyn project.

For the reasons outlined above, Opportunity North East is pleased to provide its support to this proposal and hopes that this update will be endorsed in the new national planning framework.

Yours faithfully,



Jennifer Craw
Chief Executive