V Net Zero Pipeline

FAQs

This document has been created to answer some of the most frequently asked questions about the V Net Zero pipeline.

If you have questions which are not answered in this document, you can contact our project team by phone on **07917 986 094**, or by email at **vnetzeropipeline@aecom.com**

Overview

What is the V Net Zero pipeline?

The V Net Zero pipeline is a proposed 53km underground, onshore pipeline. It will transport captured carbon from the Immingham Industrial Cluster, and transfer it to the site of the former Theddlethorpe Gas Terminal (TGT).

Once fully operational, the V Net Zero pipeline will transport 11 million tonnes of carbon a year. That's the equivalent of almost 20 per cent of emissions from the UK's cars each year.

Why are you proposing to construct the V Net Zero pipeline here?

The Humber region is the largest carbon-emitting region in the UK through both industrial and power generation. It's essential we look to decarbonise industries already in the Humber and Greater Lincolnshire area.

As we move towards a low-carbon economy, it's vital we make the transition in a way that retains and promotes jobs and prosperity in the Humber region. The V Net Zero pipeline, which is part of the wider V Net Zero Transport and Storage project, will support that process by providing a carbon transport route to Theddlethorpe, to tie-in to the existing offshore pipeline and storage in depleted gas reservoirs.

When are you planning to construct the V Net Zero pipeline?

We intend to submit our planning application for the V Net Zero pipeline in spring 2023.
If permission is granted, we would expect construction to begin in 2025 and finish in 2027.

Consultation and engagement

How can I give my feedback, and how will I know it has been taken on board?

All feedback, both written and verbal, will be recorded and considered throughout the process by a member of the team. This feedback will form the basis of the post-consultation report. The report lays out the steps taken by the project team in light of each individual piece of feedback received.

Feedback provided at events can be given on official forms, or verbally to members of the project team. A full breakdown of in-person events can be viewed below.

Tuesday 26 April / 3pm - 7pm
Best Western Oaklands Hall Hotel,
Barton Street, Laceby, Grimsby, Lincolnshire, DN37 7LF

Wednesday 27 April / 3pm - 7pm
Ashbourne Hotel,
Vicarage Ln, North Killingholme, Immingham, DN40 3JL

Tuesday 3 May / 3pm - 7pm
North Thoresby Village Hall,
The Square, North Thoresby, Grimsby, DN36 5QL

Wednesday 4 May / 3pm - 7pm
Theddlethorpe Village Hall,
Silver Street, Mablethorpe, Lincolnshire, LN12 1PA

Thursday 5 May / 3pm - 7pm
Grimoldby and Manby Village Hall,
6 Tinkle Street, Grimoldby, Lincolnshire, LN11 8SW

You can also find official online forms through the website, which hosts our Virtual Consultation Room. If you'd like to visit the Virtual Consultation Room, or download hard copy survey forms, the website can be found at **www.vnetzeropipeline.co.uk**

Our project team can also be contacted by telephone on **07917 986 094**, or by email at **vnetzeropipeline@aecom.com**

How can members of the public contact the project team?

You can call the community relations team on **07917 986 094** or email them at **vnetzeropipeline@aecom.com**

You can also find further information at **www.vnetzeropipeline.co.uk**, or through our Twitter page (**@vnetzerocluster**) or LinkedIn page (**V Net Zero Cluster**).

What community engagement is proposed?

We will be carrying out a full programme of community engagement in the Humber region as our works progress on the pipeline, and will let you know more as our plans develop.

Planning

What is a Development Consent Order?

A Development Consent Order (DCO) is a planning application made under the Planning Act 2008, to gain permission to build a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). NSIP's are major infrastructure developments in England and Wales such as major roads, power plants, large renewable energy projects and airport extensions.

A DCO application is made to the Planning Inspectorate. They will consider the application and make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) who will ultimately decide whether development consent should be granted.

What is the planning process for granting approval for the pipeline?

A Development Consent Order (DCO) application must be made to approve the project and construct the V Net Zero pipeline. There are six stages to a DCO application:

- **Pre-application:** before submitting the application, the applicant must carry out formal consultation on the proposals to statutory bodies, for example the Environment Agency, local authorities and communities and affected persons such as landowners. The people consulted can influence the design or layout of the project.
- **Acceptance:** the acceptance stage begins when the application is submitted. The Planning Inspectorate (PINS) has 28 days to decide whether or not the application meets the standards required to go to the next stage. If accepted, the documents are published on the Planning Inspectorate's website and in local and national press.
- **Pre-examination:** members of the public can register with PINS and give a written summary of their views. An examining authority will be appointed, who will invite all interested parties to a preliminary meeting to discuss the process of examination. There is no statutory timescale for this stage of the process, although it usually takes around three months.
- **Examination:** the Planning Inspectorate has up to six months to complete the examination. In this time, interested parties will be invited to provide more details in writing or speak at hearings. The examining authority will consider all the important and relevant matters including the views of interested parties and any supporting evidence submitted (and answers provided).
- **Recommendation and decision:** within three months of the end of the examination period, PINS will submit a report and recommendations to the Secretary of State (SoS) for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS). The SoS then has a further three months to decide whether to grant or refuse development consent.
- **Post decision:** following a decision from the SoS, there is a six-week period for anyone to legally challenge the SoS's decision in the High Court, also known as Judicial Review.

Environment

How will you manage the environmental impact of the project?

Harbour Energy has a commitment to protect the environment at all times. The aim of the V Net Zero pipeline is to provide a net environmental benefit by reducing the emissions of carbon dioxide gas to the atmosphere from critical UK industries.

Managing our environmental impact starts during the pipeline routing assessment phase and is systematically reviewed and assessed throughout the rest of the project. This will ensure we can identify and control any potential impacts associated with project activities.

We will present the steps we're taking to manage environmental impact in a draft Construction Environment Management Plan. This plan is a requirement of the Development Consent Order (DCO), and so all stakeholders will have access to it.

As well as developing an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) at the outset of our work, the V Net Zero pipeline project will keep to all environmental regulations, and align with conservation objectives, strategic policies and management plans, as well as Harbour Energy's own environmental policy.

The success of the EIA process and environmental impact mitigation strategy is built on obtaining accurate starting data, and detail of this is presented in the EIA Scoping Report.

What will be the impact of noise, vibration and air quality for local communities?

Pipeline construction activities will present potential impacts including noise, vibration, light and dust for the short-term construction period. We will determine the effects of these as part of the EIA process, and propose measures to control the impact. We anticipate these local impacts will be short term in nature as the pipeline construction teams progress along the pipeline routing corridor.

We will have plans and procedures in place specifically to manage the length and scale of the impacts of construction activities. We expect the construction period for the entire pipeline to be between one and two years and do not anticipate any impacts of noise, vibration, light and dust after that.

We're working with local political stakeholders, heritage organisations and planning authorities, as we prepare to carry out sound and vibration surveys on the area around the pipeline routing corridor. We will carry these out in consultation with the Environmental Health Officers of the relevant local authorities, including Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council, North East Lincolnshire Council, East Lindsey District Council and West Lindsey District Council.

We will agree suitable locations for noise monitoring and take into consideration the safety of the operators, security of monitoring equipment and accessibility.

Engineering and pipeline details

Can I have some details of the pipe and how it's made?

The pipeline will be designed, constructed and operated in accordance with the UK's Pipeline Safety Regulations (1996).

The pipeline is 53km long and expected to have an outer diameter of 24 inches. It will be buried deeper than 1.2m. We have made commitments to not harming people and to always protecting the environment. Therefore we ensure that we systematically identify, evaluate and manage risks at all stages of the pipeline's life, from design through to operation and ultimately decommissioning. This includes evaluating the wall thickness, the materials, the pipe manufacture, and all stages of the final construction, welding, testing and inspection.

Will the pipeline run underground?

Yes, the V Net Zero pipeline will be buried always deeper than 1.2 metres. We will install it in the traditional wayin an open trench, which we then re-cover.

This involves removing the topsoil and excavating the earth below, using mechanical excavators or a specialised trenching machine. Pieces of the pipeline are then lowered into the trench.

The trench is then filled with earth, and the sub and topsoil re-instated.

We will work closely with landholders and land users to ensure the pipeline location is well signposted, to avoid any accidental interference with the pipeline. We will also ensure the burial depth is enough so that farming does not present any threat to the pipeline's safety.

Construction

How much will it cost to construct the pipeline?

The cost will depend on the final route selected, and the final designs, procurement and contracts.

How long will it take to construct the pipeline?

We anticipate construction will last up to two years. However, some aspects like earthworks will be relatively quick compared to other elements such as landscaping, which will continue throughout the period. A detailed programme will aim to limit the amount of time each specific location is affected by construction.

We will let residents know well in advance of planned construction works, to manage disruption and to allow local communities to plan accordingly.

What will be the impact of construction on local communities?

Due to the nature of the work needed, some disruption is inevitable. However, we will maintain best practice on site and through overall management of the project as per the Construction Environment Management Plan. This ensures that all the way through the construction period, we carefully control activities that could cause dust, noise and vibration, and manage any impacts.

Safety

How can I be sure you will follow safety measures?

Harbour Energy is approaching the design and future operation of the V Net Zero pipeline with a strong commitment to all requirements of safety management.

The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 requires employers to ensure the health and safety of their employees and others so far as possible. This means that CO_2 pipeline operators should manage the risks at every stage of the pipeline's lifetime, through a comprehensive risk assessment.

There is other relevant legislation we follow. Part II of the Pipelines Safety Regulations 1996 defines the legal standard for the design and operation of pipelines. Other regulations we will adhere to include:

- Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulation 2013

Harbour Energy will work openly with the Health & Safety Executive on the risk management and safety management systems for carbon capture and storage.

Does Harbour Energy have experience of projects like this?

The company's management systems have been developed for safe operation in the process and offshore oil and gas industries, with extensive experience in safely operating large and complex facilities with hazardous substances. This includes the development and operation of over 38 gas fields and the Theddlethorpe Gas Terminal in Lincolnshire from the 1970s. We will use our well-established Safety Management System to benefit the development of the V Net Zero pipeline to identify, evaluate and manage hazards during all phases of the V Net Zero pipeline's development, construction, commissioning, operation and eventual decommissioning.