

# Viking CCS pipeline

## Statutory consultation FAQs

This document has been created to answer some of the most frequently asked questions about the Viking CCS 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 [vikingccspipeline@aecom.com](mailto:vikingccspipeline@aecom.com)

## Overview

### What is the Viking CCS pipeline?

The Viking CCS pipeline, previously called the V Net Zero pipeline, is a proposed 55km underground, onshore pipeline. It will transport captured carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from Immingham to the site of the former Theddlethorpe Gas Terminal (TGT).

Once fully operational, the Viking CCS pipeline will transport 10 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. That's the equivalent of removing almost 20 per cent of emissions from the UK's cars each year.

### Why are you proposing to construct the Viking CCS pipeline here?

The Humber region is the largest CO<sub>2</sub> emitting region in the UK. Meeting the UK's target of achieving net zero emissions by 2050 will require reduced emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> from existing industries within the Humber and Lincolnshire area. This transition to a low-carbon economy must be done in a way that retains and promotes jobs and prosperity in the Humber region.

The Viking CCS pipeline, which is part of the wider Viking CCS project, will support that process by providing a CO<sub>2</sub> transport route to Theddlethorpe, to tie-in to the existing offshore pipeline and storage in depleted gas reservoirs.

### When will the pipeline be operational?

We intend to submit an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the Viking CCS pipeline in 2023. Should the DCO be granted, work is planned to start in 2025 with storage of CO<sub>2</sub> beginning in 2027.

### How have you decided on this route for the pipeline?

We initially identified five route corridor options from which we selected a preferred corridor. We consulted with local communities on this corridor in spring 2022. Based on feedback we received, the corridor was updated, and we held another consultation in autumn 2022.

Alongside this, our technical team has assessed a wide range of environmental and social factors, including location of communities, biodiversity and known archaeology.

Feedback from our consultations and this technical work has helped inform the route for the pipeline.

Hard copy maps of the preferred route are available to view at in-person consultation events and at document inspection venues. Details of both are included in our consultation brochure, which also includes maps of the preferred route. An online version of the preferred route can also be viewed in the virtual consultation room.

## Consultation and engagement

### How can I give my feedback, and how will I know that it's been taken on board?

This consultation is an important opportunity for you to share your comments on the project ahead of the submission of our DCO application, which is expected to happen in 2023. You can share your feedback on our proposals by responding to the consultation in writing, in a number of ways:



Completing the online response form located on the project website at **consultation.vikingccs.co.uk**



Attending an **in-person consultation event**, where you can complete a paper copy of the response form. Details of our events can be found on our website or in the consultation brochure



Requesting the response form by post or picking up a paper copy at one of our document inspection venues – you can post this to us at: **Freepost VIKING CCS PIPELINE**



Email the response form to **vikingccspipeline@aecom.com**

Written responses can also be submitted to the email address or freepost address listed above. All responses must be received by **23:59 on Tuesday 24 January 2023**.

To view our privacy notice visit **consultation.vikingccs.co.uk/privacy-policy**

We will consider all feedback as we make further refinements to our proposed design. We will set out a summary of the responses you have given during consultation, with details of how your feedback has helped shape our proposals, as part of a *Consultation Report*. This report will form part of our DCO application and will be available to the public following submission of the application.

### What if I can't make it to your in-person engagement events?

You can find all of the consultation information on our website (**consultation.vikingccs.co.uk**). This includes a link to our virtual consultation room, which is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We will also be publishing information our Twitter and LinkedIn pages.

We are also running an online consultation event, which is scheduled to take place on **Tuesday 10 January 2023 at 7pm**.

Members of the project team will be on hand to talk you through the project and, where possible, answer your questions. Visit our website to sign up.

### How can members of the public contact the project team?

The project team for the Viking CCS pipeline can be contacted by telephone on **07917 986 094**, or emailed at **vikingccspipeline@aecom.com**.

## Planning

### What is a Development Consent Order?

This project is designated as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). NSIPs are infrastructure developments of national importance in England. These include projects such as major roads, power plants, large renewable energy projects and major pipelines.

NSIPs require a type of planning consent called a Development Consent Order (DCO). To gain a DCO, a planning application is made under the Planning Act 2008. 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 and Industrial Strategy, who will ultimately decide whether development consent should be granted for the scheme.

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

A DCO application must be made in order to approve the project and construct the Viking CCS pipeline. There are six stages to a DCO process:

- **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. **This is the stage we are currently at, and this statutory (formal) consultation is your chance to feedback on the proposals before we finalise our application.**
- **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.

If you would like any further information on the DCO application process, please visit the Planning Inspectorate's website: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/the-process/>

## 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 Viking CCS pipeline is to provide a net environmental benefit by reducing the emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> 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, where possible, control any potential impacts associated with project activities.

The project is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development, requiring submission of an Environmental Statement with the DCO application. The EIA is currently underway and, as part of this consultation, we have prepared a *Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)* to describe our preliminary assessment of the project's potential environmental effects.

We have also presented this information in a much shorter *PEIR Non-Technical Summary (NTS)*, which uses non-technical language to describe these potential environmental effects. This is available to view at our in-person consultation events, at document inspection venues, on our website and in our virtual consultation room.

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

Pipeline construction activities will present potential impacts including noise, vibration 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 potential impacts. These are detailed in the *Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)*, which is available to view as part of this consultation. We anticipate any potential impacts will be localised and short term in nature as the pipeline construction teams progress along the pipeline route.

A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be developed to ensure that, throughout the construction period, we carefully control activities that may cause dust, noise and vibration, and manage any potential impacts. The CEMP will include a traffic management plan to help limit disruption to local roads during construction. A draft CEMP is available to read as part of this consultation.

## Engineering and pipeline logistics

### Can I have some details about 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 proposed to be 55km long and expected to have an outer diameter of 24 inches, and will be made of steel. It will be buried at least 1.2 metres deep. 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.

### How will the pipeline be constructed?

The Viking CCS pipeline will be buried at least 1.2 metres deep. The most common method of constructing the pipeline will be open cut trenching. This involves digging the trench for the pipeline, laying the pipeline, and subsequently covering the pipeline with earth, and re-instating the subsoil and topsoil.

Where necessary, we will also use trenchless techniques, including the use of an auger bore and horizontal directional drilling. This helps us to avoid disruption during construction where we need to cross railways and major roads and waterways.

Our consultation brochure contains further information on both open cut trenching and trenchless techniques, and how we will use them on the Viking CCS pipeline.

## Construction

### How long will it take to construct the pipeline?

We anticipate construction will last for approximately one year. Some aspects like laying the pipeline will be relatively quick compared to other elements. 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 (CEMP).

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.

The CEMP will also include a traffic management plan, to help limit disruption to local roads during construction. If the project is consented, we will also make sure people are aware of our construction plans and any related traffic management.

## Safety

### What are the regulations which govern pipeline safety installation?

We are approaching the design and future operation of the Viking CCS 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 as far as possible. This means that CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline operators should manage the risks at every stage of the pipeline's lifetime, through comprehensive risk assessments.

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

We 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?

Our 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 38 gas fields and the Theddlethorpe Gas Terminal from the 1970s. We will use our well-established safety management systems to identify, evaluate and manage risks during all phases of the pipeline's development, construction, commissioning, operation and eventual decommissioning.