



Right Hon Ed Miliband MP
Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero
Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
55 Whitehall
London SW1A 2HP

Cc:

Rt Hon Lord Hunt of Kings Heath, Minister of State (Minister for Energy Security and Net Zero)
Sarah Jones, MP, Minister of State (Minister for Industry)

27 September 2024

Dear Secretary of State

We noted the recent letter, featured by the Guardian < <https://tinyurl.com/33sf2f97>>, calling on the government to pause plans for CCUS-based blue hydrogen and gas power, which is remarkable for its advocacy of continuing to release millions of tonnes fossil CO₂ each year into the atmosphere.

This late intervention by self-styled climate scientists and campaigners, before a major government decision, is at its heart factually wrong.

The claims that stored CO₂ has leaked from the Sleipner storage site are contradicted by the very 2023 report that they cite, which says "*Despite ... CO₂... migration the caprock structure above appears geologically resilient*". And the claims are also contradicted by a 2024 peer reviewed article by the site operators, celebrating 26 (now 28) years of secure operation which states "*thin mudrock layers have distributed the CO₂ in a larger rock volume ... promoting secure trapping by dissolution*". CCS has been safely operating for decades beneath the North Sea, even if objectors wish it hadn't been.

On hydrogen, we share concerns about the embedded emissions of methane feedstock for hydrogen imported by LNG cooled and pressurised in shipping tankers. However, as gas demand declines, an ever-larger fraction of UK supply will come from increased pipeline imports from Norway. Conversion of this methane to "blue" hydrogen will securely store the CO₂ by-product beneath the North Sea. Unfortunately, the "green" hydrogen production advocated by the "climate scientists" letter is not yet available at industrial scale. In 10 to 20 years, as surplus wind power is progressively available to power improved electrolyzers, the UK will be in a position to systematically replace imports with resilient UK produced near-zero emission hydrogen.

Until then, we advocate more insulation, efficiency, demand decrease, AND compulsory carbon storage to achieve Net Zero carbon emissions before 2050 in both the UK and Europe. This will provide UK citizens with clean air, warm homes, resilient production of low carbon electricity and hydrogen, and remove the dependence on expensive fossil fuel imports.

Yours sincerely

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