

From: Emergency Planning Team
Sent: 02 July 2026 16:13
To: Planning
Subject: RE: NPTCBC Planning Consultation - P2026/0410 Abernant Colliery Pontardawe

Good afternoon,

The Civil Protection & Preparedness Team notes that the screening report concludes that the proposed development does not fall within the scope of the Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) Regulations 2015 and is therefore not considered to have the potential to create a major accident or incident. However, the submitted information does not provide sufficient detail to enable this conclusion to be independently verified. The proposal includes the production of approximately 175kg of hydrogen per hour together with the installation of six hydrogen storage tanks, but the storage capacity of the tanks and the maximum quantity of hydrogen that may be present on site at any one time are not stated within the submission.

Given the nature of the proposed development, the quantity of hydrogen stored on site is directly relevant to understanding the potential risk of major accidents and the applicability of regulatory regimes such as Hazardous Substances Consent and the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations. The submitted information does not explain the basis upon which COMAH applicability has been discounted, nor does it provide details of the maximum hydrogen inventory associated with either the storage facilities or the production process.

The Civil Protection & Preparedness Team therefore recommends that further information is sought from the applicant regarding:

- The storage capacity of each proposed hydrogen storage tank.
- The maximum quantity of hydrogen that may be present on site at any one time, including storage tanks, process plant, vessels and associated pipework.
- Confirmation of whether the proposed hydrogen inventory exceeds any relevant Hazardous Substances Consent or COMAH thresholds.
- The assessment undertaken to support the conclusion that the development falls outside the scope of COMAH.

This information would assist in determining whether there is any potential for significant effects arising from major accident hazards and whether such matters require further consideration as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment screening process.

In addition, the submitted information does not identify anticipated operational staffing levels, site occupancy, shift arrangements or whether the facility will be continuously staffed. Whilst this may not be determinative of the screening outcome, such information would assist in understanding the operational characteristics of the development and the potential consequences of any emergency scenario.

Cofion gorau / Kind regards,

Rheolwr Tim Cynllunio ar gyfer Argyfwng | Civil Protection & Preparedness Team Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Castell-nedd Port Talbot | Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

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