



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Michael Shanks MP
Minister of State for Energy

Department for Energy Security & Net Zero
55 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HP

www.gov.uk

Bill Esterson MP
Chair of the Energy Security and Net Zero Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

9th October 2025

Dear Bill,

Accounting Officer Assessment for the Track-1 Carbon Capture, Usage and Storage Programme – HyNet and East Coast Cluster

I am writing to inform you that we have now published both of the Carbon Capture, Usage and Storage (CCUS) Track-1 Full Business Cases (FBC), in addition to the associated Accounting Officer Assessment (AOA) summary on gov.uk. The FBCs were published on 25/06/25 and the associated AOA published on 09/07/25.

CCUS is the process of capturing carbon dioxide (CO₂) and storing it safely underground. The scope of the completed Accounting Officer Assessment relates to the Full Business Case (FBC) approvals sought for CCUS anchor projects in both the HyNet and ECC clusters. The anchor comprises of both Transport & Storage (T&S) and capture projects ('Users'), including Eni (T&S), Hydrogen Production Plant 1 (HPP1) and Protos for HyNet, as well as Northern Endurance Partnership (NEP) (T&S) and Net Zero Teesside (NZT) for ECC. The HyNet and East Coast Clusters include projects supporting CCUS-enabled low-carbon ('blue') hydrogen, gas fired power CCS, industrial carbon capture and CCUS-enabled energy from waste. The Accounting Officer from the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero assessed the HyNet and ECC clusters against the Accounting Officer standards and approved them on 20th March 2025.

As part of the governments Major Project Portfolio (GMPP), the CCUS programme must align with the government's commitment to make the summary AOA letter, which contains the key points of the full Accounting Officer Assessment it reflects, available to Parliament. Additionally, a copy of the summary AOA must be shared with the Comptroller and Auditor General and the Treasury Officer of Accounts. To action the latter, I have attached a copy of the summary AOA to this letter – Annex 1.

For the former, I will place a copy of the Track-1 Carbon Capture, Usage and Storage Programme – HyNet and East Coast Cluster Accounting Officer Assessment in the Libraries of the House.

Very best wishes,

MICHAEL SHANKS MP
Minister of State for Energy
Department for Energy Security & Net Zero