



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](http://www.gov.uk)

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

20 May 2026

Dear Bill,

**Accounting Officer Assessment for the Track-1 expansion (T1x) of the HyNet CCUS cluster process Outline Business Case (OBC).**

I am writing to inform you that we have now published the Hynet T1x OBC Accounting Officer Assessment (AOA) summary on gov.uk.

CCUS is the process of capturing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and storing it safely underground. The AOA for the Hynet T1x OBC sought approval to enter into negotiations with projects included in the T1x Project Negotiation List (PNL) which was published on 5 August 2025. DESNZ will submit project-specific full business cases, which will include the corresponding accounting officer assessment, before signing any contracts with projects. The Accounting Officer from the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero assessed the Hynet T1x OBC against the Accounting Officer standards and approved them in June 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.

I will place a copy of the Accounting Officer Assessment summary in the Libraries of the House.

Best wishes,

**MICHAEL SHANKS MP**  
Minister of State for Energy