



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

I am writing to inform you that the Government is proposing changes to the legal status of the Government Pipeline and Storage System (GPSS) which passes through land in which I believe you have an interest.

The GPSS was originally built to satisfy Defence requirements but over time this has reduced with some of the spare capacity being used for civil purposes. The attached leaflet explains the changes in more detail, but in substance, it has been concluded that the Government no longer needs to own the GPSS. However, in order to enable its sale, primary legislation will be introduced later this year so that the rights to use, maintain, repair and access the GPSS currently enjoyed by the Secretary of State for Defence can be transferred to a purchaser. The draft legislative provisions have been published today as part of the draft Energy Bill.

The GPSS is currently managed on behalf of the Secretary of State by the Oil and Pipelines Agency and operates under all the current civilian safety legislation. There will be no change to this so we can see no reason why private ownership would affect its excellent record of safety and environmental management.

It is expected that sale could lead to increased investment in, and usage of, the GPSS but in practice you should not experience any greater disturbance than at present. The new legislation will continue to allow for compensation to be paid where any loss is suffered as a result of the operation of the GPSS. Further, the new legislation will also provide that compensation will be payable if the creation of these rights results in any additional decrease in the value of your land. However a change of ownership in itself will not lead to such a decrease.

If, after studying the attached leaflet you would like to comment on the draft clauses, then please do so by email to [mod@gpss.info](mailto:mod@gpss.info) or in writing to GPSS PO Box 7273, Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire LE65 2BY. The final date for comments to be received is 31 of July.

Prior to the introduction of this legislation, in addition to writing to affected landowners such as yourself, we are also notifying all MPs whose constituencies are affected by this proposal and chief executives of County,

District & Unitary Councils with GPSS facilities within their boundaries, together with relevant professional bodies and trade organisations.

Please note that nothing in these proposals changes the current position of Fisher German as the land agents operating on behalf of the Oil and Pipelines Agency and they still remain the first point of contact for matters affecting the day to day operation of the pipeline network.

Yours sincerely

Peter Shortt  
Head of Business Strategy and Governance  
Ministry of Defence.