From: Donna Bennison
Sent: 27 November 2019 15:05
To: Mark Hill; Chris France; Rob Smith
Subject: Letters of support

Dear Chris, Mark and Rob,

Please find attached two letters of support for the continued operation of Cleveland Potash Ltd.

Thank you

Regards

Donna Bennison
External Affairs Project Coordinator
Tel:
Mobile: +
Ext:
Boulby Mine
Loftus
Saltburn
TS13 4UZ

www.icl-uk.uk

-

Science and Technology Facilities Council

STFC Head Office
UK Research and Innovation
Polaris House
North Star Avenue
Swindon SN2 1FL

25th November 2019

Re: UKRI-STFC support for the continued operation of ICL-UK's Boulby mine

Dear Mr Fulton,

On behalf of the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC), UK Research and Innovation, I am writing to fully support ICL-UK's continued operation at the Boulby mine in Cleveland.

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) of which STFC is part, is the UK's main Government body charged with funding research and innovation for the benefit of the UK and its people.

ICL-UK's Boulby mine is the enabler for one of our key science programmes and an important national asset for UK science, facilitating researchers undertaking a world-leading programme in areas such as energy and security, vital to the UK and its economy.

The role ICL-UK plays and contributes to our programme through hosting our underground laboratory is essential. The science it delivers can only be realised in the future with the generous and essential support provided by ICL-UK and with the Boulby mine's continued operation.

I am therefore writing to express our strong wish and support for the continued operation of ICL-UK's Boulby mine and to confirm the essential role of ICL-UK / Boulby in allowing our renowned, international science programme to continue.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Jason Green

Associate Director Programmes Directorate

UKRI-STFC

STFC Boulby
Underground Laboratory
Boulby Mine
Loftus, Saltburn-by-the-Sea
Cleveland, TS13 4UZ
Tel.

14th November 2019

Re: Expression of support for the continued operation of ICL-UK's Boulby mine.

Dear Mr Andrew Fulton,

On behalf of the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) Boulby Underground Laboratory, situated at Boulby mine, I am writing here to express our strong wish and support for the continued operation of ICL-UK's Boulby mine and to confirm the essential role of ICL-UK / Boulby in allowing the work hosted by our internationally-important deep underground science facility to continue.

Boulby Underground Laboratory is a multi-disciplinary science facility operating 1.1km below ground in Boulby polyhalite and salt mine. The facility, operated by STFC, consists of a large (4000m^3) cleanroom underground science facility built in a dedicated mine tunnel close the mine shafts and an adjacent (3000m^3) 'Outside Experimentation Area' (OEA) in bare tunnels nearby. Boulby lab is one of the few important and high-profile places in the world enabling safe and supported access for science studies requiring an ultra-low background radiation environment and/or access to the scientifically interesting geology deep underground. For over three decades the Boulby facility has hosted world-leading astro-particle physics studies including searches for dark matter (the 'missing mass in the Universe') in addition to a wide variety of other internationally-important studies of geology/geophysics, climate, the environment, life in extreme environs on Earth and technology development for planetary exploration beyond Earth.

Our aim at Boulby laboratory is, on behalf of the UK tax payer, to support, progress and deliver great and impactful science and also to strongly connect with the public with engaging and enlightening outreach. Over the years the science undertaken at Boulby has had great impact across and wide range of fields, including leading the world in developing technologies for direct dark matter detection, examining the role of atmospheric radiation in climate change, developing techniques for enabling greater precision in environmental and atmospheric testing and analyses, developing new technologies for structural monitoring in Carbon Capture Storage (CCS), advancing our knowledge of the limits of life in extreme environments on Earth and enabling the development and testing of various instruments to be taken on future space exploration missions looking for life on Mars and more. Alongside this, the Boulby lab team use this science programme as a basis for a wide-ranging outreach and education programme in the area, giving frequent science talks in schools and public forums, taking part in science fairs and workshops, hosting/leading frequent schools live links and Q&As and taking part in as many other educational events as time and practicalities will allow.

Boulby Laboratory is widely acknowledged as an important national asset for UK science, however the lab can only do what it does now and in the future with the generous and essential support provided by ICL-UK and with the Boulby mine's continued operation. ICL-UK currently enable Boulby lab to operate at the site, ensuring safe and supported access to the underground environment in addition to providing misc. practical and logistic support to enable the facility to operate. ICL-UK do this without monetary gain, only seeking recompense for the small costs directly incurred due to science operations on site. This essentially free access to the site for science, and with the site being kept open and safe by the host company, means the cost to the UK taxpayer in operating an underground lab is reduced by >£10M per year (over 10 times the annual cost of the lab itself) compared to cost for a lab being run in a dedicated mine (as is done in a number of other countries). As such Boulby Lab and UK science benefits hugely from ICL actions and their continued operation of Boulby mine. The successful science and industry partnership we have at here Boulby is unique and the generous, forward thinking and societally-minded approach adopted by ICL-UK in supporting this partnership is recognised, admired and envied throughout the underground science world.

Once again, we would like to express our strong wish and support here for the continued operation of ICL-UK's Boulby mine. We confirm the continued operation and support of ICL-UK and Boulby mine is essential to the future work of STFC Boulby Underground Laboratory and the nationally / internationally important scientific work we host.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Sean Paling
Director, Senior Scientist
STFC Boulby Underground Laboratory