

21 December 2006

Stephen D Eades Esq
Marinet
Allington House
Allington
Chippenham
Wiltshire SN14 6LN

Our Ref:
Your Ref:

Dear Mr Eades

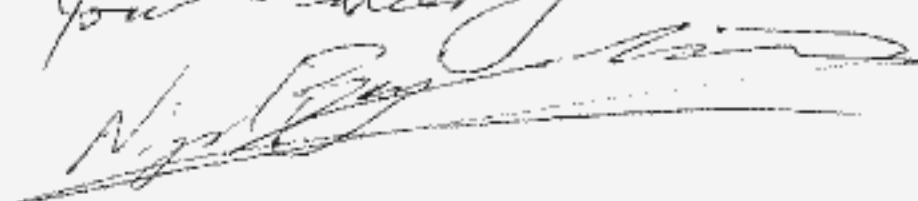
APPLICATION FOR A GOVERNMENT VIEW (GV) - AREA 401/2 & MARINE MINERALS DREDGING REGULATIONS

Thank you for your letters of 12 November and 14 December to my colleague, Matthew Louis, about this GV application and the proposed marine minerals dredging regulations.

The Secretary of State is not yet in a position to issue her decision on the Hanson Aggregates Marine Limited (HAML) application to continue dredging in Area 401/2 up until the end of 2013. She has however, following consultation with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, today granted a further temporary GV allowing HAML to extract up until the end of June 2007 any residual tonnage remaining undredged from the 1.5 million tonnes which was the subject of the temporary favourable GV issued on 31 March 2006 (covering the period from 1 April 2006 to 31 December 2006).

Before deciding to issue this further favourable temporary GV, the Secretary of State 'screened' the continued dredging up to the end of June 2007 and concluded that it would not have a significant effect on the environment and does not, therefore, require an Environmental Impact Assessment. This decision to grant a further time, but not tonnage, extension is made without prejudice to the determination of HAML's 'main' GV application.

I anticipate that the decision on the HAML application to dredge in this Area up until the end of 2013 will be issued early in the New Year. Similarly, with regard to the proposed marine minerals dredging regulations, I would expect these to come into force early in the New Year too.

Yours sincerely


Nigel Bayliss

Department for Communities and Local Government
Zone 4/B1
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London SW1E 5 DU

Tel 020.7944.3875
Fax 020.7944.3859
Email nigel.bayliss@communities.gsi.gov.uk