

16th March 2016



Mr. S Eades
Mr. D Levy

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Dear Mr Levy,

Thank you for your letter dated 25th February, in which you requested some clarification on the licence applications surrounding discharge permits into the Blackwater estuary. I have spoken with the area team staff who are responsible for Natural England's responses to these applications and have tried to address your points below. To ensure we are talking about the same applications I have included the application reference numbers and dates.

Natural England was consulted and provided advice on application EPR/DP3127/XB (trade effluent discharge from Bradwell Site Magnox Ltd.). This permit was originally issued in March 2012 however delays meant that it did not start until 2014. Natural England provided advice on this permit in November 2011 and were content with the assessment of the impacts to the SSSI, SAC, SPA and Ramsar (appendix 4 and 11), subject to the inclusion of baseline monitoring to ensure the predicted dilution was occurring.

We were also consulted in April 2014 for advice on the potential impacts from the above permit specifically on the MCZ, following its designation in November 2013. We reviewed both of the original assessments in the context of the MCZ and agreed them to be sufficient to ensure that the conservation objectives of the MCZ would not be hindered.

With respect to the 'extension of the 2014 permit' you mention; we were consulted on a change to the effluent discharge for the EPR/DP3127/XB permit in October 2014. We provided advice on this change on the 22 October 2014. In terms of the extension of this permit, we were not consulted on this as this extension was covered by the original permit assessments and documentation.

In terms of the 2015 application (which should now be considered the 2016 application) - we have now received the documentation for this and will respond within our statutory response times.

I have included our responses to these three consultations with this letter.

Thank you also for your phone call today, in which you asked for some information around the MMO



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application MLA-2015-004 Port of Dover. I have passed this request on to the local team representative and they will be in touch in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Charlotte Johnson

Senior Environmental Specialist

Attachments:

- 1) November 2011 response: **36921- APPENDIX 11 EPRDP3127XB**- Bradwell FED discharge – Natural England's response is on page 34 of this 'Habitats Directive form for recording likely significant effect Stage 2'
- 2) November 2011 response: **EPRDP3127XB Appendix 4** Natural England's response to the 'CROW Act 2000 and Environment Agency Application for Permission - Formal Notice' can be found on page 3.
- 3) April 2014 response (MCZ response). **118676_Natural England review of App 4 and App 11 for EPR_DP3127XB_A001**
- 4) October 2014 response (addition of FED): **129061_Bradwell Minor Change to Decommissioning Effluent Final**