

Date: 22 October 2014
Our ref: 129061
Your ref: Bradwell Nuclear Power Station – minor change to their decommissioning effluent discharge



John Daniels
Environment Agency

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BY EMAIL ONLY

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Dear John,

Bradwell Nuclear Power Station – minor change to their decommissioning effluent discharge

Thank you for consulting Natural England on the minor change to discharge EPR/DP3127XB. This letter formalises the correspondence we've had pertaining to this consultation.

The principal change to discharge consent EPR/DP3127XB is the inclusion of discharge containing treated nitrogen oxide scrubber liquors. We reviewed the following documents as part of this consultation:

- Addendum to Environmental Risk Assessment BRAD/EN-REP/023/FED NOX Scrubber Liquors and FED Effluent;
- HR Wallingford Report RT011 Annual Average Concentration of FED Constituents.

Following our review of these reports we sought clarification from you on a number of points, specifically the potential risk for cumulative impacts arising from this discharge. This point arose as we were made aware of new sediment heavy metal contaminant data from a 2012 Environment Agency (EA) grab survey carried out within the European Marine Site¹. This survey found that a number of grabs had levels of chromium, mercury, lead and copper at an 'Effects Range Low' level 'which often causes adverse effects in marine organisms'. We were uncertain as to the possible cumulative impacts and advised that Cefas should be consulted for advice, which unfortunately they could not provide.

In considering the EA 2012 grab data, and other sediment data, and assessing it cumulatively with the predicted discharge concentration arising from this permit, you ascertained that the heavy metal concentration within the sediment will not increase by a measurable amount. As the contaminants in the discharge are at a level that is non-discernible from the background concentration, the original conclusion of 'no likely significant effect', either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, is considered to still be valid. If the Environment Agency have fully satisfied themselves with this conclusion then Natural England is content.

For any queries relating to the content of this letter please contact me using the details provided below.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathon Brennan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jonathon Brennan
Marine Adviser, Essex Local Delivery Team

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ⁱ Environment Agency (2012) Natural England Essex Estuaries Benthic Grab Survey.
(Natural England TRIM container F100/008/002/071/002/0004)