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TEMPORARY GOVERNMENT VIEW EXTENSION ON LICENCE 401/2

I refer to your letter of 3 March 2006 in which you request a temporary 9 month extension to the existing favourable Government View (GV) for Area 401/2 that was issued on 19 December 1995.

The existing favourable GV allowed a maximum of 20 million tonnes to be extracted from Areas 401/1 and 401/2 over a 10 year period commencing on the date of issue of the Crown Estate licence. The GV conditions restricted extraction to no more than 2 million tonnes per annum from the combined areas of 401/1 and 401/2. The subsequent licence issue by the Crown Estate expires today. To date approximately 14.42 million tonnes has been extracted and you propose to dredge no more than 1.5 million tonnes, a continuation of the existing extraction rate, in the period 1 April 2006 - 31 December 2006 as an interim measure pending the determination by the First Secretary of State of a GV application that you have submitted to him to continue to extract from this Area of up to 2 million tonnes per annum from Area 401/2 until sometime in 2013.

Following consultation with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) it has been agreed that the original GV should be extended to cover the period 1 April 2006 to 31st December 2006 in respect of Area 401/2. The amount of material extracted over this period shall not exceed 1.5 million tonnes and be subject to the conditions that applied to the 1995 GV. The First Secretary of State has screened this proposal to see whether it is an 'EIA application' and concluded that it is not EIA development.

This decision to grant a 9 month extension does not influence any future decision on the GV application for the same Area.

Copies of this letter have been sent to Margaret Wemys (DEFRA) and Jason Golder (Crown Estate) for information.

Yours sincerely
Nigel Bayliss

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