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Our ref: QMAR74
24th April 2006

Mr S Eades
MARINET
Allington House
Allington
Chippenham
Wiltshire
SN14

Dear Mr Eades,

**Licence renewal of marine aggregate dredging Area 430 (East of Southwold) -
Scoping opinion**

United Marine Dredging Ltd and CEMEX UK Marine Ltd (the applicants) are applying to the Crown Estate, the owner of the area of seabed in question, for a licence renewal of Area 430 East of Southwold. The existing licence expires in November 2007 and a new favourable Government View (GV) is required to support an application to the Crown Estate for a licence to continue to dredge marine sand and gravel at the site for a further 15 years.

Under the current Interim Procedures, applications are made to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM), which will consider all the information that is required to be submitted with the application in making its decision. Information will include an assessment of the environmental effects of the proposed dredging in the form of an Environmental Statement (ES), comments received in response to consultation with interested parties and comments received following advertisement of the application.

Metoc have been commissioned by the applicants to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the proposed dredging operations to be submitted with the application in the form of an ES. Under the Interim GV Procedures, an informal scoping exercise with key consultees and fishing industry representatives is required.

Scoping identifies potential impacts that could arise with respect to each relevant environmental parameter and excludes those that are not of concern. It determines and defines the level of assessment that will be required in the EIA. A key part of the scoping process is consultation with stakeholders.

MARINET is included on the list of consultees for this application, provided by the ODPM. In responding to this scoping consultation we would be grateful if you would consider the following questions:

- What, if any, are your concerns regarding potential impacts of the proposed dredging activity?
- Do you have any observations to make regarding the current dredging activity at this site?



- Are you aware of any information relating to the existing environment or use of the area that should be used in the EIA.
- Are there any organisations or individuals, other than those on the list of consultees (see scoping document), that should be consulted as part of the assessment?

Information about the application, including a summary of issues that have been identified so far and a location map, are included in the scoping document which accompanies this letter. The document summarises how the EIA will address the key issues identified.

We would be grateful if you would respond as soon as possible, and by **Friday 20th May 2006** at the latest, so that your feedback can be incorporated into the EIA.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Stocks

Project Manager