



marine and fisheries
agency

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Mr Ian Taylor
Westminster Gravels Limited
Westminster House
Crompton Way
Segensworth West
Fareham
Hampshire
PO15 5SS

Our Ref: MA 234

Date: 7 December 2007

Dear Mr Taylor,

**THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND NATURAL HABITATS
(EXTRACTION OF MINERALS BY MARINE DREDGING) (ENGLAND AND NORTHERN
IRELAND) REGULATIONS 2007**

**DREDGING APPLICATION BY WESTMINSTER GRAVELS LIMITED TO EXTRACT
COARSE SAND AGGREGATE FROM AREA 457 IN LIVERPOOL BAY**

1. I refer to your letter of 22 May 1998 to the then Department of the Environment, Transport & the Regions under the now superseded informal Government View (GV) procedures for a favourable GV on a proposal for the extraction of up to 18 million tonnes of coarse sand aggregate from Area 457 over a 15 year period at a rate of up to 1.2 million tonnes per annum.
2. The Secretary of State has now carefully considered this application together with all its supporting environmental information and all the comments from consultees and all other representations and has decided, in principle and subject to formulating an appropriate schedule of conditions, to issue a dredging permission under the provisions of the above regulations which came into force on 1 May and as detailed in the enclosed draft decision letter.
3. However, because the Secretary of State has found it necessary to substantially modify and extend the draft schedule of conditions proposed by the applicants and they will not, therefore, be aware of some of the conditions that are now proposed, he has decided, before formally issuing his decision, to consult Westminster Gravels Limited on the practicability of the schedule of conditions which he is proposing to impose on any dredging permission that he may finally issue. The draft schedule of conditions is attached to the enclosed draft decision letter.
4. **The Secretary of State is not seeking any comments on the terms of the draft dredging permission letter or the principle of issuing a dredging permission subject to the schedule of conditions; he simply wishes to obtain the applicant's view on the practicability of the conditions. He is therefore specifically requesting a**



response from Westminster Gravels Limited as applicant. This letter with attachments is, however, being copied, for information only, to all the parties consulted on the application and to those who have previously submitted written representations on it.

5. I should be grateful if you could let us have comments on the practicability of the draft Schedule of Conditions within 21 days from receipt of this letter (sent electronically with hard copy to follow).

6. A copy of this letter with attachments goes for information only, as already mentioned, to all the parties consulted on the application and those who have previously submitted written representations on it.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Swepson".

David Swepson
Marine Environment Team