

Date: 17 April 2014  
Our ref: 118676  
Your ref: EPR/DP3127XB/A001



Suzanne Haworth  
Environment Agency

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SW1P 3JR.

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

T 0300 060 0843

Dear Suzanne,

Review of Appendix 4 and Appendix 11 for Discharge Consent EPR/DP3127XB/A001 – Trade Effluent Discharge from Bradwell Site Magnox Ltd.

Thank you for your telephone call on 16 April 2014 requesting Natural England's advice on the Environment Agency's assessment of potential environmental impacts from discharge consent EPR/DP3127XB/A001. These assessments are also known as Appendix 4 for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's) and Appendix 11 for Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPA's) and Ramsar sites.

Natural England received both the Appendix 4 and Appendix 11 in the original consultation dated November 2011. We were content with the assessment conclusions of no likely significant effect on the European designated sites (SAC and SPA's), and no adverse effect on the SSSI's. This was subject to the inclusion of baseline monitoring to ensure the predicted dilution was occurring as anticipated.

In November 2013 the Blackwater, Crouch, Roach and Colne Estuaries Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) was designated for native oysters, native oyster beds, Clacton Cliffs and Foreshore (geological feature) and intertidal mixed sediments. Natural England considers the environmental assessment undertaken for discharge EPR/DP3127XB/A001 to be sufficiently comprehensive to ensure there is no adverse effect on those features of the MCZ sensitive to changes in water quality. This conclusion has been reached for the following features:

- Native oyster beds: The material to be discharged has been assessed for its potential impacts including changes in thermal regime, nutrient enrichment, physical damage, salinity, siltation, toxic contamination and turbidity. The predicted effects arising from the discharge are deemed to be either negligible, very low or within suitable limits. Therefore we are content that the discharge consent will not result in the significant deterioration of feature extent, structure and function, quality or the composition of its characteristic biological communities which would be contrary to the feature achieving favourable condition.
- Native oysters: Based on the assessment undertaken, the quality and quantity of the native oyster habitat will not be significantly affected by the discharge. The habitat was assessed under the Essex Estuaries SAC feature 'Estuaries' which includes subtidal habitats, with the conclusion of no likely significant effect.
- Intertidal mixed sediments: The SAC feature mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide (intertidal mudflats and sandflats) was assessed in Appendix 11. We consider this assessment to be sufficient to consider potential impacts to the MCZ feature.

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 style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

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