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Mr S D Eades
Marinet
Allington House
Allington
Chippenham
Wiltshire
SN14 6LN

Your Ref:

Our Ref:

Date: 2 January 2008

Dear Mr Eades

**THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND NATURAL HABITATS
(EXTRACTION OF MINERALS BY MARINE DREDGING) (ENGLAND AND NORTHERN
IRELAND) REGULATIONS 2007; AND
MARINE MINERALS GUIDANCE NOTE 2 - THE CONTROL OF MARINE MINERALS
FROM THE BRITISH SEABED**

Thank you for your letter of 16 December setting out your request for Marinet to be routinely advised of all licence applications, including applications for the renewal of existing licences.

Dredging licences are issued by the Crown Estate but, up to 31 April 2007, only if the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government first issued a favourable Government View on their environmental acceptability. As from 1 May 2007, the Crown Estate will only issue a dredging licence if the applicant first obtains dredging permission from the Secretary of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs under the provisions of the Environmental Impact Assessment and Natural Habitats (Extraction of Minerals by Marine Dredging) (England and Northern Ireland) Regulations 2007.

I can confirm that Marinet will be routinely notified of the submission of all new dredging applications and all applications for the variation of existing dredging permissions that are determined by the Secretary of State to have a significant effect on the environment and, therefore, require the submission of an Environmental Statement.

You may recall that my colleague, Nigel Bayliss, explained and confirmed this in the fourth paragraph of his letter to you of 3 July 2007 and that you acknowledged this in the second paragraph of your letter to him of 7 July in connection with dredging operations in Area 401/2.

Yours sincerely,



**D C SPOONER
REGULATORY ADVISOR
MARINE MINERALS TEAM**