



essential materials
sustainable solutions

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Mr Stephen Eades
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25th June 2010

Dear Stephen

Re. East Anglian Regional Environmental Assessment

Thank you for your letter dated 29th May 2010 addressed to the Chief Executive Officer of the British Marine Aggregate Producers Association in which you set out some concerns over the ongoing Regional Environmental Assessment (REA) process for the East Anglian region.

It is important to reiterate that the REA process is a voluntary initiative introduced by the marine aggregate sector. The objective is to ensure that regional scale cumulative and in-combination issues associated with future proposed operations can be addressed in a consistent and robust manner. While this process ultimately falls outside of the formal regulatory process for marine aggregate extraction under the Marine Mineral Dredging Regulations (2007), the results and outputs can be used to help inform and support the assessment of individual licences.

The results from the REA programme will ultimately feed into the site specific environmental impact assessments needed to support applications for individual licence areas. Individual applications and their supporting environmental information will then be comprehensively reviewed and assessed by the regulator and their statutory advisors, as well as the wider stakeholder community, through both the extensive pre-application stage of the regulatory process and through the formal application itself.

If at the end of these processes the regulator or their advisors have significant outstanding concerns over any aspect of the assessment process (including any supporting studies) or the impacts that these processes have predicted, a dredging permission will not be issued.

Yours sincerely

Mark Russell
Director BMAPA

BMAPA is part of the Mineral Products Association, the trade association for the aggregates, asphalt, cement, concrete, lime, mortar and silica sand industries

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british marine aggregate producers association