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Our ref: 244092
Your ref: NYM/2018/0212/CVC



Mr Rob Smith
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BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Mr Rob Smith

Planning consultation: Application for verification check of conditions 4, 18, 34, 45, 46, 47, 52, 57, 60, 68, 70, 73, 76, 79, 81, 87, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95 & 97 of planning approval NYM/2017/0505/MEIA
Location: Land at Woodsmith Mine (formerly Doves Nest Farm & Haxby Plantation), Sneatonthorpe (minehead); underneath 252 km² of the NYMNPA (winning & working of minerals); a corridor extending underground from the edge of the NP boundary to Wilton Complex (mineral transport system); Ladycross Plantation near Egton, Lockwood Beck Farm near Moorsholm, Tocketts Lythe, near Guisborough (intermediate shaft sites); site within the eastern limits of the Wilton Complex, Teeside (tunnel portal)

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 12 April 2018 which was received by Natural England on the same date

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Natural England has considered the information provided and has the following comments to make.

Discharge planning conditions NYMNPA - 46, 47, 60 and 79 with regards to hydrology, hydrogeology and water quality for Phase 4 works at Woodsmith Mine

As discussed Natural England has not yet been able to assess these conditions as we require specialist hydrological input which is unavailable at the moment. We will provide comments on these conditions as soon as possible. We note that the consultation includes modifications to the excavation methodology at the MTS shaft, accompanied by additional hydrological assessment, which we are considering.

Discharge planning conditions NYMNPA-91 and 92 with regards to air quality management for Phase 3 works at Woodsmith Mine

Natural England broadly welcomes the report titled Phase 4a - Woodsmith Mine Emissions to Atmosphere – NYMNPA-91 which broadly satisfies our concerns. However we note that para 3.2.2 states that the originally agreed mitigation controls are no longer considered necessary considering the reduction in the size of the generators. While we accept that this might be the case we do not consider that sufficient evidence has been provided in this report to justify the removal of these conditions. We would expect to see screening assessment which demonstrates that emissions from the project are no longer considered significant if full air quality modelling has not been undertaken.

We note table 3.1 but are unable to draw conclusions regarding significant from this without the context of the critical loads for the habitats present and background levels. We note for instance that a 0.47 kg/N/ha/yr process contribution would equate to 9.4% of the critical level for blanket bog or 4.7% for European dry heaths or North Atlantic wet heath habitats which would be considered

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significant.

Natural England notes the information provided and has no comments to make on the discharge of conditions 34 or 18.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Merlin Ash
Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire Team
Natural England