



Ministry
of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Defence Infrastructure Organisation
Building 18 Piave Lines
Catterick Garrison
North Yorkshire
DL9 3LR



Our Ref: 407/FYLD/03

Your Ref: NYM/2017/0533/CVC

21st December 2017

Mr Rob Smith
Senior Minerals Planner
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Dear Rob

RE: APPLICATION FOR VERIFICATION CHECK OF CONDITIONS 14 & 15 OF PLANNING APPROVAL NYM/2014/0676/MEIA AT WOODSMITH MINE (FORMERLY DOVE'S NEST FARM & HAXBY PLANTATION), SNEATONTHORPE, GRID REFERENCE 489495 505142

Further to your letter dated 4 August 2017 to the Ministry of Defence (Fylingdales Safeguard), ref NYM/2017/0533/CVC regarding the application to discharge condition 15 relating to planning consent Ref: NYM/2014/0676/MEIA, I am writing to provide comments on the Subsidence Monitoring Strategy submitted by Sirius Minerals Ltd. (SML) following our review that has specifically focussed on the RAF Fylingdales facility.

The overall observation from the review is that whilst the Subsidence Monitoring Strategy provides a good basis for the establishment of on-going monitoring programme, the submitted document lacks detail in certain areas that require the provision of further information. We therefore suggest the submitted subsidence monitoring strategy would allow the condition to be conditionally discharged so that appropriate control, via the planning system, remains in place for additional detail to be agreed between SML and MOD. The additional details that require agreement from a MOD perspective are listed below:

1. Monitoring Methodology

- i) It is recommended that the stated accuracy of SML's proposed GNSS survey technique is specified and agreed with MOD, both in terms of horizontal and vertical accuracy in relation to SSPAR infrastructure at RAF Fylingdales.
- ii) Notwithstanding i) above it is recommended that the monitoring stations at RAF Fylingdales are surveyed annually using precise levelling surveying techniques as a cross check to the GNSS survey data. The frequency of this cross check survey should be reviewed and agreed annually.

2. Monitoring Equipment

- i) MOD require a copy of the specification for the proposed surveying equipment to be provided by SML (GNSS / GPS and Precise Levelling equipment). On receipt of same the MOD will review the specification to ensure that the surveying equipment selected will provide the accuracy / precision required (refer to section above) and that it is suitable for use at the RAF Fylingdales facility.

3. Monitoring Locations

- i) The proposed number of monitoring locations (12 no.) should be supplemented by two further locations north of F5 to provide the basis for a north-south profile to be constructed from the dataset. The requirement for monitoring locations within the RAF Fylingdales site, if any, will be confirmed by MOD to SML. As proposed by SML a site meeting should be arranged between MOD and SML to discuss and agree the number and location of the monitoring stations.

4. Monitoring Stations

- i) Cast in site concrete monitoring stations (refer to Figure 3-7 of the strategy report) are considered to be appropriate for the subsidence monitoring programme at RAF Fylingdales. SML should provide a detailed monitoring station installation method statement to MOD for review and agreement prior to commencement of the installation works. Following installation an Installation Report should be provided by SML to MOD (refer to Item 6 below).

5. Monitoring Frequency

- i) A quarterly monitoring frequency (i.e. every 3 months) is considered appropriate for the subsidence monitoring programme at RAF Fylingdales. MOD will require monitoring of these stations to commence as soon as the monitoring stations are installed to provide a robust baseline dataset in advance of commencement of mining operations.

6. Reporting

- i) The proposed quarterly reporting (i.e. after each quarterly round of monitoring) is considered appropriate for the subsidence monitoring programme at RAF Fylingdales. In addition to the quarterly monitoring reports MOD would also request that SML also prepare and submit the following reports to fully document the implementation of the subsidence monitoring programme at RAF Fylingdales:

- Monitoring Station Installation Report
- Subsidence Monitoring Protocol (setting out details of the final approved subsidence monitoring programme and including access / notification procedures etc.)
- Baseline Monitoring Reports (quarterly from the date of installation of the monitoring stations to the commencement of mining operations)

7. Timeline

- i) The overall timeline appears to be reasonable but needs to be updated to reflect the final approval date for the Subsidence Monitoring Programme. MOD would request that SML provide a detailed programme for the RAF Fylingdales site for review and agreement by MOD, once the Subsidence Monitoring Programme is approved.

Yours sincerely

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