

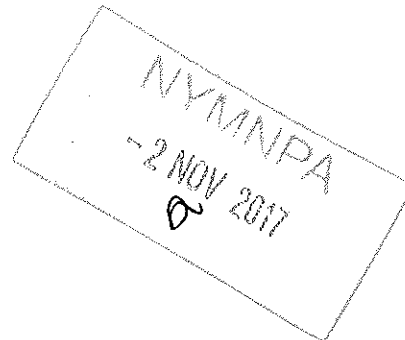
Dawn Paton

From: Rob Smith
Sent: 02 November 2017 15:14
To: Planning
Subject: FW: Correspondence from Sirius Minerals Robert Staniland
Attachments: 40-SMP-AUT-LE-0074 20171102 NYMNPA Sirius Minerals response to EA regarding s73.pdf

Please log in (2017/0505) thanks

Rob Smith
Senior Minerals Planner

North York Moors National Park Authority
The Old Vicarage
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From: Victoria Hill
Sent: 02 November 2017 14:56
To: Rob Smith
Cc: Robert Staniland
Subject: Correspondence from Sirius Minerals Robert Staniland

Good afternoon Robert,

Please find attached Sirius Minerals' response to the Environment Agency, as discussed with Rob Staniland. If you have any further requests or require any clarification, please contact Rob directly.

Kind regards,
Victoria Hill
Document Control

Sirius Minerals Plc
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Sustaining the future.



BY EMAIL TO rob.smith@northyorkmoors.org.uk

Our Ref: 40-SMP-AUT-LE-0074

Mr Rob Smith
North York Moors National Park
The Old Vicarage
Helmsley
York
YO62 5BP



02 November 2017

Dear Mr Smith

Application reference NYM/2017/0505/MEIA – APPLICATION IN RESPECT OF VARIATION OF CONDITION 5 OF PLANNING PERMISSION NYM/2014/0676/MEIA TO ALLOW MINOR MATERIAL AMENDMENTS RELATING TO THAT PART OF THE DEVELOPMENT AT THE WOODSMITH MINE SITE (FORMERLY KNOWN AS DOVES NEST FARM AND HAXBY PLANTATION), INCLUDING; RE-DESIGN OF FORESHAFTS AND SHAFT CONSTRUCTION METHODOLOGY, CHANGES TO BUILDING LAYOUT AND SHAFT ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS, REVISIONS TO CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATIONAL SHAFT PLATFORM LEVELS, REVISIONS TO LOCATION AND LAYOUT OF SURFACE WATER ATTENUATION PONDS, REVISIONS TO GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS AND AMENDMENTS TO INTERNAL ACCESS ROAD ARRANGEMENTS (ADDITIONAL INFORMATION). WOODSMITH MINE (FORMERLY DOVE'S NEST FARM & HAXBY PLANTATION), SNEATONTHORPE

Sirius Minerals response to consultation comments provided by the Environment Agency (ref. RA/2017/137194/02-L01)

Thank you for providing the comments of the Environment Agency on the above application. This letter provides Sirius Minerals' response to the issues raised.

Sirius Minerals welcomes the Environment Agency's position of having **no objection** to the proposals. In confirming its position, the Environment Agency has provided additional advice relating to the design, function and management of the 'recharge trench' groundwater mitigation feature. Sirius Minerals acknowledges this advice. We also provide the following information, which supports our confidence in the modelling work and the future function of the recharge trench:

As presented in the Doves Nest Farm (now Woodsmith Mine) Hydrogeological Baseline Report Ref. No. 1975 (July 2016), the design permeability of the Moor Grit aquifer, into which the recharge trench is to soakaway, has been derived from evaluation of 3No. laboratory permeability tests, 6No. site based packer tests, 2No. site based pumping tests and 1 No. site based variable head test. This test data has then been considered in conjunction with the simulated permeability of the strata, necessary to achieve dynamic and steady state groundwater levels that correspond to the four years of baseline groundwater level monitoring within the Moor grit aquifer. As stated in Section 3.4 of report 40-FWS-WS-83-PA-RA-0002, as part of the quantitative modelling process, sensitivity and

uncertainty analyses were completed to test the influence of permeability variation in the Moor Grit aquifer. This entailed combined high and low recharge and hydraulic conductivity runs. The results of these sensitivity analyses determined that changes in the hydraulic conductivity of the Moor Grit aquifer will not significantly affect the impact on groundwater recharge to the spring. On this basis, the modelling is considered robust, whilst also suitably conservative for the purposes of assessment.

Going forward, detailed design of the trench, including evaluation of additional site based infiltration testing, will be carried out as originally planned and as reflected in the Environment Agency's advice. Detailed design of the management, maintenance and monitoring of the recharge trench will be presented in the Groundwater Management Plan, the Construction and Operational Phase Ground and Surface Water Monitoring Plan and the Remedial Action Plan, as part of the submission to discharge conditions 46 and 47 (currently as per the extant permission NYM/2014/0676/MEIA) ahead of that Phase of works commencing.

Sirius Minerals trusts that this response demonstrates that the Environment Agency's advice will be followed and adds further support to the Environment Agency's position of no objection.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Staniland
Environment Manager

Distribution:

Nick Pedder: Planning Specialist – Sustainable Places

