

4th February 2013

Norman Jones
Torfaen County Borough Council
Planning & Public Protection
Tŷ Blaen Torfaen,
Panteg Way
New Inn
Pontypool NP4 0LS

Our Ref: 404.0542.00002

Dear Mr Jones,

RE: APPLICATION REF: 03/P/09336: PROPOSED RECOVERY OF SECONDARY AGGREGATES AND LAND RECLAMATION" FOR ITS LANDHOLDING AT TIR PENTWYS, HAFODYRYNYS.

Please find enclosed a Second Supplementary Environmental Statement submitted pursuant to the above planning application on behalf of Peakman Limited.

As you are aware the planning application was submitted in 2003 and accompanied by a full Environmental Statement (referred to hereafter as the original ES) that had been prepared following the undertaking of an Environmental Impact Assessment.

The proposal identified that the former opencast coal waste tip at Tir Penwys Cut contains a substantial proportion of Pennant Sandstone, a gritstone capable of producing high specification aggregate for use in the wearing courses of road construction, a material which is acknowledged to be an important national resource.

In 2006 a supplementary volume to the original ES (SES) was submitted in order to consider the implications of the revised highway access to the scheme and to provide a description of the new access road proposals.

Throughout the intervening period, the applicant, potential operator and the planning authority has considered a number of issues raised by statutory consultees, non-statutory consultees, and advice proffered in respect of the scheme. The enclosed SSES seeks to address the salient points of those discussions, and, where necessary, update the environmental information previously submitted.

In accordance with the Scoping Report issued by your Authority, the SSES focuses on the environmental impact assessment of the ecological implications of the entire scheme, and the geotechnical implications of the engineering design of the proposed access road.

Consideration has also been given in respect of landscape matters, the need/alternative issues associated with the recovery of the material, and the policy changes that have taken place since 2006.

The conclusion has been reached that the economic significance of the resource and the ability to win it without using traditional intrusive quarrying techniques (for example blasting)

is such that the proposal should be recommended for approval. The proposed access road can be constructed and, with appropriate mitigation, will not have a significant adverse impact on the local environment or amenity.

Accordingly, the submission consists of the following:

- this covering letter;
- four copies of a Second Supplementary Environmental Statement, including relevant drawings and technical Appendices;
- four copies of a Non-Technical Summary of the SSES;
- a copy of the Notice published in the South Wales Argus, posted at ten locations in and around the site, and served on the relevant landowners.

Should you require a digital version of the submission, or additional copies of any documents, please do not hesitate to contact me.

As you will appreciate, the length of time that this 2003 application has been under consideration is somewhat excessive, and I am sure that all parties are keen to secure a resolution to the Application. I would be grateful if you would acknowledge receipt of this information by means of letter in order that the period of determination can be clearly established in accordance with the appropriate Regulations.

Yours sincerely
SLR Consulting Limited

Will Ryan
Principal