



**Cyfoeth
Naturiol
Cymru
Natural
Resources
Wales**

Our Ref: CH18-004

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David J Rowlands AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

27 March 2018

Dear David,

'Petition P-05-785 Suspend Marine License 12/45/ML to dump radioactive marine sediments from the Hinkley Point nuclear site into Wales' coastal waters off Cardiff'

Further to my letter of 22 January 2018, I am now able to address the remaining points raised in your original letter dated 12 January.

Sampling of sediment

For public reassurance, we requested that Cefas undertake radiation dose analysis of the 2009 samples, as this analysis had been carried out on samples from 2013 and 2017; this has now been completed. In addition to the specialist advice provided by Cefas, we consulted Public Health Wales and NRW's own internal expert in relation to the dose analysis results. The assessment concluded that the values for individual dredger crew members, the public, and the total collective dose were within the *de minimus* criteria according to the generic radiological assessment procedure developed by the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency). Therefore, the results, based on Cefas' analysis and the IAEA criteria, show that the material possesses no radiological risk to human health or the environment.

We have also completed our assessment of the suite of samples that were submitted to us in November 2017. The report and conclusions were produced by Cefas and we also conducted a technical consultation with Public Health Wales and NRW's experts using the same international guidelines as for previous samples. The chemical and radiological

results were within acceptable limits and we are satisfied that there is no risk to human health or the environment.

Following your request, we also asked the licence holder to consider further voluntary sampling at depth. However, following the results of the samples taken in 2009, 2013 and 2017, it is not considered necessary as there is no scientific basis for any additional sampling. Unfortunately, this is not something that we can re-visit through the licence or its conditions.

We have therefore formally discharged condition 9.5 of the marine licence. However, there is a further condition regarding site monitoring that the licence holder needs to discharge before NRW will provide written approval before the disposal activity can commence.

Our dedicated web-page (link below) will publicise the decisions we make and provide timely updates, including downloadable content of key documents.

Analysis of radioactivity

We have obtained from Cefas the full range of radionuclides that have been tested/screened and have made this information available on a dedicated page on our website: www.cyfoethnaturiolcymru/GwarediadGwaddodCardiffGrounds/ / www.naturalresources.wales/CardiffGroundsSedimentDisposal.

Sampling sites and dispersal studies

Cefas have provided information regarding the movement of sediments disposed of at Cardiff Grounds, which I have attached to this correspondence for your assistance.

Environmental sampling of the Severn Estuary for radionuclides is also conducted as part of the joint UK regulators Radioactivity in Food and the Environment (RIFE) programme. This is an extensive monitoring programme measuring radionuclides in air, water, soil and foodstuffs and is an independent check-monitoring programme, supplementing the environmental monitoring that the regulators require of permitted nuclear sites to carry out and report to us in the UK. NRW are partners in this programme.

This independent programme is conducted annually and published each October. The most recent is No. 22, covering sampling in 2016, published in October 2017.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/radioactivity-in-food-and-the-environment-rife-reports-2004-to-2016>

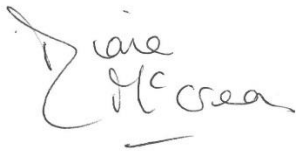
Key references to the monitoring programmes near Hinkley Nuclear Power Stations (A, B and C), including in the Estuary are in the following sections;

P122, S 4.6
P146 Table 4.7b

In addition to the annual environmental sampling conducted for RIFE, in 2016, the Environment Agency also undertook an additional sampling programme of sediments in the nearby River Parrett. This is included in the report in Section for Hinkley. (4.6)

I hope the above answers your outstanding queries. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diane McCrea', with a horizontal line underneath.

Diane McCrea MBE

**Cadeirydd, Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru
Chair, Natural Resources Wales**