

Case Manager  
The Planning Inspectorate  
3/18 Eagle Wing  
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2 The Square  
Bristol  
BS1 6PN

Ein cyf / Our ref: SH/2014/117386/6

Planning Inspectorate ref. EN 010062

Dyddiad/Date: 28 May 2015

Annwyl Syr/Madam / Dear Sir/Madam

**The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended)  
– Rule 8(3) and Rule 17**

**Application by Tata Steel UK Limited for an order Granting Development  
Consent for the Internal Power Generation Enhancement for Port Talbot  
Steelworks**

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) submit these comments in response to your letter of 20<sup>th</sup> May 2015.

4. Development Consent Order Question 4.4.1 to the applicant and Associated  
British Ports (ABP)

ARTICLE 25 and SCHEDULE 9 – PROTECTIVE PROVISIONS – Associated British  
Ports

(C). River Afan Monitoring – Can the applicant confirm what has been agreed with  
NRW and the Afan River Management Group to ensure that there will be sufficient  
early warning of low river flows to enable impounding to be implemented in order to  
maintain impounded dock water levels.

- No formal agreement has been made with regards low flow monitoring. The monitoring is however something we have considered and would be willing to include in our existing drought monitoring and management procedures.

Whilst low flow monitoring and advice would be helpful to provide advance notice for low flow water management by both ABP and Tata, actual Dock water levels are likely to be the direct trigger to initiate impounding and would be influenced by the operations of Tata and ABP. Any agreement on low flow monitoring would be best agreed through the Water Management Group. ABP are currently proposing to undertake refurbishment works at Greenpark Weir in the near future that includes installation of control structures to manage flow of water from the Afan into the Docks. It is advisable that any water management options are developed once these works have been completed.

(D). Can the applicant and ABP provide evidence that demonstrates the capacity of the existing impounding facilities to maintain the critical water levels within the Port Talbot Dock during periods of low river flows with reference to the anticipated abstraction rates.

- Historically mobile pumps have been installed to provide the pumping capacity as required. ABP however are considering refurbishing the existing pump house and pumps by the lock gates as a longer term and more reliable solution to impoundment. These pumps do have the capacity to meet impounding needs.

#### 6. Environmental Matters Question 4.5.1 to the applicant ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT

Can the applicant confirm the date of submission, or if not yet submitted, the date on which the submission of their environmental permit application will be lodged with Natural Resources Wales.

- To date no variation application has been received by our permitting centre. Please note that we have a 21 day service level for assessing if the application is duly made.

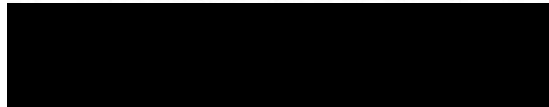
#### 7. Environmental Matters Question 4.5.2 to the applicant SITE INVESTIGATION AND DQRA OUTCOMES

Can the applicant provide evidence to support the agreement of all interested parties as to the outcomes of all issues related to the results of the site investigation works and Detailed Qualitative Risk Assessment (DQRA).

- We are in consultation with the applicants and have agreed to the wording of Requirement 18.

Please contact Louise Edwards, [louise.edwards@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk](mailto:louise.edwards@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk) or telephone 03000 65 3573 for further advice regarding this submission.

Yn gywir / Yours faithfully



**Martyn Evans**

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**Ein diben yw sicrhau bod adnoddau naturiol Cymru yn cael eu cynnal, eu gwella a'u defnyddio yn gynaliadwy, yn awr ac yn y dyfodol.**

**Our purpose is to ensure that the natural resources of Wales are sustainably maintained, enhanced and used, now and in the future.**

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