

Mr Giles Scott

Head of National Infrastructure Consents  
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Department of Energy and Climate  
Change

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Ein cyf / Our ref: SH/2014/117386/3

Planning Inspectorate ref. EN 010062

Dyddiad/Date: 05 November 2015

Annwyl / Dear Mr Scott

**PROPOSED PORT TALBOT STEELWORKS (POWER GENERATION  
ENHANCEMENT) ORDER.**

**PROJECT REFERENCE: EN 010062**

**REQUEST FOR COMMENTS FROM THE APPLICANT, ASSOCIATED BRITISH  
PORTS AND NATURAL RESOURCES WALES ON THE APPLICATION FOR THE  
PROPOSED INTERNAL POWER GENERATION ENHANCEMENT FOR PORT  
TALBOT STEELWORKS – EN010062**

Thank you for referring the above consultation to Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru/Natural Resources Wales, which we received on 29 October 2015.

Our response to the questions raised are as follows.

**Will the project, including any mitigation, result in deterioration in the current  
WFD status of the River Afan (or any other affected body of water)?**

The project will operate within the conditions and licenced quantities of the existing Tata Steel abstraction licences and no changes are proposed to those licences. We do not therefore predict that it will result in a deterioration to the current WFD status of the Afan.

**Will the project, including any mitigation, prevent the River Afan (or any other  
affected body of water) from achieving the status or potential required by the  
WFD within the timescales required by the WFD, subject to the application of  
extensions determined in accordance with Article 4(4) of the WFD and set out  
in the Western Wales River Basin Management Plan?**

We do not predict that the project will prevent the Afan from achieving future WFD objectives. The existing licenced abstractions for Tata Steel, supply to Port Talbot Docks and the hydraulic structure used to facilitate these are located at the tidal limit of the Afan. Combined, they have historically resulted in reduced abstraction flows to the estuary and a physical barrier constraining fish passage, mitigated in part by the NRW fish pass. Working with partners through the Afan Water Management Group, ABP is currently undertaking a programme of engineering works to improve fish passage and control abstractions, enabling competing demands on water to be better managed in the lower Afan and increasing environmental river flows. These have been modelled as some of the principle actions in enabling the Afan to meet future WFD objectives.

**If the answer to either of the above questions is “yes”, please provide full details of the affected water body or bodies, the extent to which WFD objectives will be unable to be met in relation to the body or bodies in question and whether the project needs a derogation under Article 4(7) of the WFD in order to proceed.**

N/A

**If the project needs a derogation under Article 4(7) of the WFD in order to proceed, what evidence is there (i) that conditions (a) to (d) of paragraph 7 are met and (ii) that the project will not permanently exclude or compromise the achievement of the objectives of the WFD in other bodies of water within the Western Wales River Basin District for the purposes of Article 4(8)?**

N/A

We trust that we have adequately answered your questions, however should you have any further queries please contact Louise Edwards at [louise.edwards@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk](mailto:louise.edwards@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk) or telephone 03000 65 3573.

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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