

NZT DCO Exam Question:

The latest correspondence that the ExA is aware of between NWL and the Applicants is recorded in the SoCG received at D5 [REP5-020].

- i) NWL and the Applicants are asked to provide an update on the status of discussions regarding the provision of water supply and wastewater treatment.
- ii) The suitability of Bran Sands for wastewater treatment is based on a simulated waste water sample provided to NWL in 2021. Please confirm that this sample is still considered representative and that NWL still conclude that there are no significant issues posed with processing the waste stream.
- iii) The SoCG records that conservative foul water volumes for discharges were shared with NWL in July 2022 and that these were going to be assessed. Has it been confirmed that Marske-by-the-sea Sewage Treatment Works is capable of treating the domestic foul water discharges?

NWL's Response:

- i) The Applicants held preliminary discussions with NWL in early 2020 on the supply of raw water and wastewater treatment to facilitate early design considerations for the Proposed Development. The Applicants have been in regular engagement with NWL since early 2021 on the provision of wastewater treatment, with NWL conducting treatment trials from 3Q 2021 to 2Q 2022 (see further the response to ii) below). In June 2022, the Applicants shared water supply demands for the Proposed Development. NWL has completed an initial network analysis using this data and determined that they are within available capacity. NWL are currently developing a project plan of the commercial and technical activities required to support the Proposed Development, in relation to both water supply and wastewater treatment. There are a number of remaining details to be addressed that will be subject to detailed design and commercial agreement.
- ii) The sample is still considered representative. It was produced based on the Applicants' understanding of what the wastewater would contain, using information obtained from pre-FEED design and engineering work, and it included conservative ammonia concentrations compared to the pre-FEED design basis. The treatment trials conducted by NWL concluded that the sample and forecast volumes could be accommodated within the existing Bran Sands WwTP facility and operational capacity. As the Applicants proceed through FEED they will continue to review the sample against the more detailed design information to ensure it remains representative of the updated wastewater specification. Subject to the outcome of further reviews, the Applicants expect that it will remain representative.
- iii) The Applicants and NWL are continuing to engage on the treatment of foul water. The volumes shared by the Applicants in July 2022 are low in comparison to historical volumes during the operation of the former steelworks (which were treated at Marske-by-the-Sea STW) and therefore the Applicants remain confident that the Marske-by-the-Sea STW is capable of treating the foul water discharges. Foul water treatment is included in the project plan under development by NWL referenced at i) above.