

Southampton to London Pipeline Project

End of Examination

Cover Letter - End of Examination

Application Document: 8.99

Planning Inspectorate Reference Number: EN070005

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April 2020





The Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6PN

For the attention of:
Hefin Jones

09 April 2020

Dear Sir or Madam,

**Planning Act 2008. Application by Esso Petroleum Company, Limited for
Southampton to London Pipeline
Final submission of Applicant**

The Applicant has reviewed the submissions made at Deadline 7. These largely repeat previous points that the various parties have made; and other than the points below, we are generally happy for the Examining Authority to rely on the Applicant's previous submissions.

The Applicant would like to make the following points in respect of Deadline 7:

1. A number of representations were received at Deadline 7 which included feedback on outline management plans such as the Outline Construction Transport Management Plan (CTMP). The Applicant will consider the points raised at Deadline 7 when it prepares the final plans for local authority approval.
2. In the Applicant's submission 'Schedule of Vegetation Retention Commitments in South Downs National Park', ([REP6-076](#)) paragraph 1.1.2 states '*A figure or national grid location reference will be provided to accompany Table 1 (to be provided at Deadline 7).*' A schedule and figure were prepared but were unfortunately omitted from the Deadline 7 submission. That document is now enclosed (**Document Reference 8.87 (2)**).
3. The Applicant notes that Rushmoor Borough Council (RBC) made late submissions at Deadline 7. In the view of the Applicant it is unreasonable behaviour to introduce substantial new evidence at the end of the Examination and after the final deadline. The construction methodology has been clear since the Statutory Consultation in September 2018 and the application first appeared on the Planning Inspectorate website in mid-May 2019. There are factual inaccuracies in these late submissions which the Examining Authority will be aware of from the Applicant's previous submissions. The submissions highlight that in recent weeks the Council appear to have closed their minds to any

solution at Queen Elizabeth Park other than Horizontal Direct Drilling (HDD); this illustrates why the additional requirement suggested by the Examining Authority, that RBC approves the Site Specific Plan, and as a result the construction technique, in their draft DCO is not reasonable.

4. The concerns of the Environment Agency in respect of its forthcoming River Thames Scheme (RTS) are noted. Progress has not been as quick as we would have liked because of difficulties in obtaining borehole information and costings. The Applicant greatly appreciates the opportunity to engage with the EA and examine the interface between the SLP project and their scheme prior to finalisation of our engineering plans. The Applicant's continuing aim is to work with the EA to determine the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of accommodating the RTS at the outset of the SLP project or at a later date, taking account of any synergies that can be gained with the potential diversions of the existing Esso and Cadent Gas pipelines.

The Applicant felt that it would be helpful to the Examination to provide a summary of its case in the light of the Examination, which we have attached. The Applicant has also updated the Guide to the Application, to include hyperlinks to the Deadline 7 submissions.

The Applicant is grateful that all parties have managed to bring the Examination to a conclusion within the original timescale, especially considering the Covid-19 emergency.

We would like to reiterate our thanks to the Examining Authority and the Case Officers for their hard work throughout examination.

As usual, attached below is a schedule of the documents submitted with this letter. Should you have any queries on any aspect of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

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Schedule of Documents submitted on 9 April 2020

Doc No.	Rev No	Document Title
8.99	1.0	This letter
8.100	1.0	Summary of Case
1.5	9.0	Guide to the Application.
8.87	2.0	Schedule of Vegetation Retention Commitments in South Downs National Park