

**From:** [Gordon, Clark](#)  
**To:** [Southampton to London Pipeline Project](#)  
**Subject:** Environment Agency response to BEIS SoS (EN070005)  
**Date:** 19 August 2020 18:14:52  
**Attachments:** [image006.png](#)  
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[Environment Agency response to BEIS SoS \(EN070005\).pdf](#)

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Dear Sir/Madam,

**Environment Agency response to Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy  
Secretary of State (EN070005)**

**PINS Registration identification number: 20022740**

Please find attached our response to the BEIS request for an update on the EA's River Thames Scheme, as requested in the letter dated 5 August.

If you have any queries about this response, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

**Clark Gordon**

Strategic Planning Specialist, Strategic Planning & Engagement (Thames)

**Environment Agency** | Red Kite House, Howbery Park, Wallingford, Oxon, OX10 8BD

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***Speak to us early about environmental issues and opportunities*** - We can provide a free pre-application advice note or for more detailed advice / meetings / reviews we can provide a project manager to coordinate specialist advice / meetings which costs £100 per hour (plus VAT). For more information email us at [planning\\_THM@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:planning_THM@environment-agency.gov.uk).

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Gareth Leigh  
Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning  
Department for Business, Energy &  
Industrial Strategy  
1 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0ET

**Project:** Southampton to London  
Pipeline Project

**Your ref:** EN070005

**Date:** 19 August 2020

Dear Gareth,

**Planning Act 2008 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010**

**Application by Esso Petroleum Company Limited (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed Southampton to London Pipeline Project and associated infrastructure (“the Pipeline Project”)**

Thank you for your letter dated 5 August. As requested, please see below for our update on the ongoing engagement between us and the applicant concerning the Environment Agency’s (EA) River Thames Scheme (RTS).

In summary, we have no further updates to provide since the end of the examination and our concerns remain outstanding.

Since the end of the examination we have not heard anything further from the applicant in terms of an engineering solution or associated costs. The last communication from the applicant in March indicated that a preferred contractor had been chosen and that they were working on costed options so a solution can be reached. Dalcour Maclaren, agents for the EA on RTS, have requested further updates but have not received a response to date.

We acknowledge that there *should* be a viable, technical solution to the issue, but this is not necessarily our primary point of concern. We have continued to request cost details so that we can assess any additional costs to the RTS scheme. Ultimately, between us and our partners, we must ensure the effective use of public funds for the scheme and wish to avoid any avoidable, significant additional costs.

We are therefore no further forward than when we made our original representations in July 2019. We would welcome further engagement with the applicant so that an agreement can be reached regarding location, alignment, depth and costs of the proposed crossing of the pipeline and the RTS. With this, we aim to reduce the potential impacts to both projects during construction and future maintenance.

We look forward to further engagement with the applicant and remain hopeful an agreement can be reached to the satisfaction of both parties.

If you have any queries about this response, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

**Clark Gordon**  
**Strategic Planning Specialist**  
**Environment Agency, Thames area**

End