

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Great Yarmouth Third River Crossing](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** GYTRC - representation  
**Date:** 21 February 2020 16:57:41  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

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Dear Sirs

Please find attached a letter regarding the consideration of flood risk assessment and Deadline 7 for the GYTRC project for which I would be grateful of your urgent consideration.

Regards

[REDACTED]  
**Barbara Moss-Taylor** | Sustainable Places Planning Specialist  
**Environment Agency** | Icen House, Cobham Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP3 3JD

[REDACTED]  
My working pattern is Monday to Friday, in my absence please call +44203 025 5475



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The Planning Inspectorate  
National Infrastructure Directorate  
Temple Quay House  
Temple Quay  
Bristol  
BS1 6PN

Our Ref: AE/2019/124219

Your Ref: TR010043

Date: 21 February 2020

By email

Dear Sir

**Planning Act 2008 – Section 89 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rule 17**

**Application by Norfolk County Council for an order granting development consent for the Great Yarmouth third river crossing project.**

**Examining Authority's request for further information**

We write with reference to the request for further information issued by the Examining Authority pursuant to Rule 17 of the above mentioned Act on 13 February 2020 that was forwarded to us by the Applicant on 17 February 2020.

In response to the questions raised in the Rule 17 letter the Applicant has requested that the Environment Agency review and respond to the further modelling that they propose to undertake before Deadline 7, 3 March 2020.

The Environment Agency has previously raised concerns regarding the adequacy of the modelling upon which the Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) is based both to the Applicant prior to submission, and to the ExA as part of the examination process in the form of objection. We also raised our concerns regarding the cancelling of Issue Specific Hearings in our letter of 23 December 2019. We expected to be able to fully explore with the ExA and the Applicant outstanding issues of concern in respect of flood risk at an ISH which would have given the Applicant clear direction from the ExA.

We expect DCO applications to be submitted with full and comprehensive consideration of flood risk in accordance with the requirements of NPS National Networks, FRA Guidance, and the Flood Risk and Coastal Change PPG to the NPPF. When the FRA is submitted in this way the evidence can be verified and reviewed in one event. Unfortunately this Application was submitted for examination without an adequate level of assessment of flood risk. What has followed has been further modelling and assessment submitted but, once reviewed found to be insufficient. Although advised of this, the Applicant has remained in disagreement with us on this issue until challenged by the ExA. This approach has added a great deal of delay in even nearing agreement.

The process of generating and reviewing the modelling to support an FRA is resource intensive both in terms of human and processing capacity. The process of verifying that the modelling is fit for purpose usually takes at least three weeks. Once this stage is completed the FRA is then reviewed. The FRA cannot be reviewed until it is

confirmed that the modelling is fit for purpose. To date we have not received the requested modelling from the applicant and therefore it is extremely unlikely that we will be able to confirm the adequacy of submitted modelling to meet Deadline 7 even if this were submitted to us immediately.

In addition we would ask you to bear in mind that the Environment Agency is a Category 1 Responder as defined by the Civil Contingencies Act. This means that we respond to environmental incidents including flooding. Most employees of the Environment Agency have roles for incident response in addition to their substantive roles. We can and do prioritise responding to incidents; which means that staff can be diverted from their usual roles, and that work that is not immediately relevant to public safety may be delayed. At present there has been an unprecedented number of flooding incidents across the country with staff in unaffected areas supporting those that have been seriously affected. This situation is affecting response times although given that the examination is due to conclude on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020 we will try and ensure that the modelling assessment and review is completed within the usual time scales.

The consideration of flood risk and the effect that the Application might have on third parties is safety critical and of the utmost importance. In order to ensure that the examination is sufficiently appraised of all aspects of flood risk associated with the application we would suggest that the Environment Agency's observations on the applicants flood risk model should be permitted to be submitted prior to the conclusion of the examination on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020, but in the event, that the Environment Agency's flood incident response role impacts upon this timescale the information should be submitted as soon as it is available thereafter to ensure that all relevant information can be included within the examiner's report to the Secretary of State.

Until such time as the results of the additional modelling are known the Environment Agency must maintain its objection to the application on the basis of flood risk.

Yours faithfully



**MRS BARBARA MOSS-TAYLOR**  
**Sustainable Places - Planning Specialist**

