From: latimers [robert@latimers.com]
Sent: 02 March 2007 09:43
To: Thomas Bell
Subject: FW: Port of Tyne Capping trial

-----Original Message-----
From: Lindsay Murray (Cefas) [mailto:lindsay.murray@cefas.co.uk]
Sent: 02 March 2007 08:59
To: robert@latimers.com
Subject: Port of Tyne Capping trial

Dear Mr Latimer,

Following my e-mail to you of 14th February, I have been looking into the supply of the additional information you requested on the 8th February.

I understand that Ms Carter has supplied you with additional information since that date, and that also you participated in a meeting at the Port of Tyne last week, at which Dr Vivian was present, so that more information should now be available to you which I hope meets much of your requirements.

In relation to the specific requests you made, while the EIR does not cover internal communications, we have attempted to extract the most pertinent documents from the files to meet your needs. I know you will appreciate that there has been a huge amount of correspondence concerning this particular case and our files are extensive. It would not be possible to extract all of the correspondence within the normal cost ceiling (£600)for providing information under EIR. I hope that the attached documents will be sufficient for your needs, but if not, I could provide an estimate of costs of supplying additional information.

Cefas's role is to advise Defra on the scientific aspects of issue of a licence for deposits at sea. The decision is made by Defra taking into account Cefas's view and other pertinent information such as socio-economic considerations. The documents attached to this e-mail show the train of advice from Cefas to Defra over a period April 2003 to June 2004. These address other environmental options for disposal, dispersion from the Souter point site, and the use of capping to isolate the contaminated material from the wider environment. The early documents refer to the application to deposit dredged material at sea, in open disposal. Later documents refer to the capping trial.

The train of events and advice chain from Cefas to Defra is shown in the attached document 'advice chain'.

In relation to the capping trial, I should explain that the intention of a capping project is to confine the contaminated material beneath the cap so it is not exposed to the marine environment. Hence, providing the integrity of the cap is maintained, it prevents dispersion away from its deposit site, and ensures no environmental damage arises beyond the

capping site. Cefas's assessments of the potential impact on the environment therefore needed to concentrate on the period before the cap was in place, and, once the cap was in place, on ensuring that the integrity of the cap would be maintained.

In relation to questions 9 and 10, these are also partially covered in the advice chain. You have also received some information the dispersiveness of the Souter point site in the information supplied to you on 13th February by Ms Carter.

The dispersiveness of a site depends on firstly the site characteristics -tides, waves etc, and secondly the characteristics of the material under consideration. Thus a site can be dispersive for one material but non-dispersive for another. In the case of a capping project, since capping integrity is key, it is the characteristics of the capping material that are of prime importance in relation to the hydrodynamics of the site.

In relation to your query about other materials deposited at the Souter Point Site, the quantities of minestone and tailings (colliery waste) as well as fly ash deposited at the Souter Point (Inner), North Tyne and Sunderland sites for 1985 - 1993 are given in the attached Excel file. Minestone and tailings disposed of at this site mainly came from Westoe Colliery at South Shields but also from Wearmouth Colliery at Sunderland. Fly ash disposed of at this site came from the Stella Power Stations near Blaydon. I could find no recent assessment of the quantities of minestone, tailings and fly ash remaining at the site. There is a much older report, published by Cefas in 1979 on 'The field assessment of effects of dumping wastes at sea:5 The disposal of solid wastes off the north-east coast on England', which has some relevance to the hydrodynamic properties of the area. We do not have this in electronic format, but I will put a copy in the post to you.

Finally, you requested information on monitoring of the capped site. I am told that Defra has now sent you all of the relevant monitoring reports. Let me know if there is more that you require.

I hope that this now provides you with sufficient information for your needs

Yours sincerely,

Lindsay Murray

Dr Lindsay Murray
Head of Environmental Resource Management Group,
Cefas

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