18

Thomas Bell (MCS)

From: "Smith, Mike L (MW)" <Mike.L.Smith@defra.gsi.gov.uk>
To: "'Thomas Bell (MCS)'" <thomas@mcsuk.org>
Cc: "Maslin, John (MW)" <john.maslin@DEFRA.GSI.GOV.UK>; "Dixon, Andrew R (MW)" <Andrew.R.Dixon@defra.gsi.gov.uk>; "Meekums, Michael (MW)" <Michael.Meekums@defra.gsi.gov.uk>
Sent: 07 January 2005 17:31
Subject: RE: Request for Copy of Environmental Impact Assessment

Thomas

As discussed today.

For clarification, there is no single, formal EIA document (the capping trial is not caught by the EIA regulations) however under FEPA, Defra can require such supporting information as we see fit to carry out our obligations under the Act and has requested a great deal of information (including modelling, data collection and physical and chemical analysis) during the process of developing the capping methodology.

I have sent you a copy of the licence and the work and monitoring plans but have explained that the other supporting documents are subject to a request that the information be withheld on the grounds of commercial sensitivity otherwise I would have been happy to send them immediately. I am awaiting a justification of this claim from the Port and will consider this when deciding whether to uphold the request or not. I hope to receive it by the end of next week and will keep you informed of any progress.

Kind regards

Mike

-----Original Message-----
From: Thomas Bell (MCS) [mailto:thomas@mcsuk.org]
Sent: 06 January 2005 17:30
To: andy.dixon@defra.gsi.gov.uk
Cc: Smith, Mike L (MW)
Subject: Request for Copy of Environmental Impact Assessment

Dear Andy,

FEPA Act 1985 - Port of Tyne Authority Disposal Licence 31995/04/1 - Disposal of Contaminated Dredgings from River Tyne to the Sea

Following our conversation earlier today regarding a copy of the full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the above dredging licence, I spoke with Brian Reeve at the Port of Tyne Authority (PTA). Mr Reeve is firmly of the opinion that a copy can only be supplied by Defra, and that the PTA is not in a position to help. He suggested that Mike Smith at MCEU had fielded previous requests to the Port Authority for a copy of the EIA, and referred me once again to MCEU.

The Marine Conservation Society would like to formally request a copy of the EIA for the above disposal licence. We are based in Herefordshire, and I am afraid not immediately able to attend Smith Square to view a copy. If there are costs involved in supplying a copy to us, either electronically or by post, then I would be grateful if you could advise.

Once again, many thanks for providing MCS with a copy of the licence itself, monitoring programme and work plan. I look forward to a response at your earliest convenience,

With kind regards,

Thomas Bell