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**Our Ref:** 1754DE

**Your Ref:** RSK/HE/P41396/05/010 EA

**Date:** 15 February 2012

Dear Sir

**RE: Three Nook Farm Gas to Power Project: Pre- Application Consultation (Phase 2)**

Thank you for your enquiry of 26 January 2012 requesting information relating to the above.

**Watercourses**

Watercourses in the area of interest are designated as ordinary watercourses and as such the Environment Agency is not the responsible authority. We would recommend that you contact the Technical Services Department of the Local Authority who as the responsible drainage authority for ordinary watercourses may hold further information. You may also wish to contact the Local Authority to obtain further information regarding localised flooding from drains, culverts and small watercourses.

**Flood Risk**

Our records indicate that part of the area of interest lies in **Flood Zone 3**. **Flood Zone 3** is the high risk zone and is defined for mapping purposes by the Agency's Flood Zones. This refers to land where the indicative annual probability of flooding is **1 in 100 years** or less from river sources (i.e. it has a 1% or greater chance of flooding in any given year). Please find enclosed a copy of the Flood Map for the area in the vicinity of the property.

Unfortunately we have not undertaken any detailed flood risk modelling in the area of interest. The Flood Map at this location was produced using our National Generalised Modelling.

Whilst the modelling process did provide some information on depth / level of water, they are not suitable for use in site specific Flood Risk Assessments or Strategic Flood Risk Assessments and must not normally be used for these studies

### **Historic Flooding**

Following examination of our records of Historic Flooding (see explanation below) we have no record of flooding in the area. This does not mean that the area of the property / site has never flooded, only that we do not currently have records of flooding in this area.

You may also wish to contact your local authority or internal drainage board, to see if they have other relevant local flood information.

### **What are our records of Historic Flooding?**

Our records of Historic Flooding show the extents of known flooding from rivers, the sea, and groundwater. It cannot show all the flooding that may ever have occurred – we can only show flooding where we have adequate records. So, just because an area of land is shown outside the extents of our recorded flooding does not mean it has never flooded. As more data on historic flooding comes to light, and as flood incidents occur, then we will record this where we have adequate information to do so.

We do hold groundwater level data, but there are no groundwater sites within the specified area. The nearest site is 4.8km away.

A search based on the grid reference supplied shows the area to be underlain by solid geology of the Morridge Formation (sandstones, siltstones and mudstones), which in this area is designated a 'Secondary A' Aquifer by the Environment Agency. 'Secondary A' aquifers are defined as permeable strata capable of supporting water supplies at a local rather than strategic scale and in some cases forming an important source of base flow to rivers. These generally equate to aquifers formerly classified as 'Minor Aquifers'. Superficial Diamicton Till deposits are also present, which is designated as 'Unproductive' strata.

As shown on the map supplied a groundwater Source Protection Zone III (total catchment area) exists towards the north of the search area. The whole area is designated a surface water Nitrate Vulnerable Zone.

In response to your question concerning land contamination, we have assumed that you are mainly interested in information concerning the contaminated land legislation (Part 2a of the Environmental Protection Act 1990) and specifically our public register records under Section 78R of this Act. Under this legislation we are the lead organisation for a type of contaminated land site called a 'Special Site'. We can confirm that as of 14th February 2012 no sites within the 2km search area have been designated a 'Special Site' and hence there are no records of any associated enforcement action.

Furthermore, we are not currently inspecting any 'potential Special Sites' on behalf of the local authority in this area, and have received no notification from that authority that any sites have been determined to be 'Contaminated Land'

The above statements should not be taken to mean that any sites within the search area will not be considered under Part 2a in the future, or that contamination associated with previous land uses does not exist. For further information you should contact the relevant Local Authority as they are the primary regulator for Contaminated Land under this Act. Additionally, they might hold relevant information on the contaminative past uses of these sites and records of any investigation that has previously been undertaken.

The Environment Agency sometimes receives information concerning land contamination from the local planning authority (LPA) when they consult us on planning permission applications. While we may hold copies of some documents, they will hold complete and up to date records about any land contamination reports that exist for the site in question, and copies of comments from organisations that have been consulted on the application. We again would encourage you to send your query to the local authority, but if having done this you still require information from us, please contact us again.

There has been no incident's reported on our NIRS database with any events over the last two years in our geographical area. The last NIRS in the area was reference 89539 in July 2002 relating to an accidental spillage of agricultural slurry at Horton which was deemed to have had no impact on the land, water and the air.

The only other discharges that may be being made into the ground are small discharges from septic tanks to soakaways from private dwellings which have no access to the foul sewer. The Environmetn Agency had started the process of requesting that these operations be registered but this has been put on hold while the registration process is reviewed. With being just registered and not permitted, these had been deemed low risk with little impact on the groundwater.

"There are two current licensed water abstraction licences held within a 2 kilometre radius of the site which are located within the North West Region of the Environment Agency.

The first licence is for a surface water abstraction from an unnamed tributary of Biddulph Brook at NGR SJ 904 592. This is for Biddulph Sands Ltd., 31 Wellington Road, Nantwich for their site at Hurst Road, Biddulph. Water is licensed to be used for sand washing and conveying materials within the quarry and the quantities authorised to be abstracted are 190.9 M3/day, 57,279 M3/year. It would appear that the abstraction has not been utilised for a number of years.

The second licence is for a surface water abstraction from Biddulph Brook at NGR SJ 9011 5922. This is for Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, Moorlands House, Stockwell Street, Leek for pond/amenity pool through flow at Biddulph Grange Country Park and the quantities authorised to be abstracted are 2.333 M3/day, 851,472 M3/year. The abstraction of water under this licence is fully utilised.

We do not hold any records of any deregulated licences within the search area.

A site inspection has not been carried out in relation to your request for information. This information is provided under the conditions for use of data or information attached.

Yours sincerely

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