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Environment Agency

Peter Ryalls
Marine Management Organisation
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Our ref: NA/2022/115806/01-L01
Your ref: MLA/2020/00506

Date: 21 April 2022

Dear Peter

DISCHARGE OF CONDITION 5.2.7 (LICENCE L/2021/00333/1A) - INFORMATION ON SCHEME OF MONITORING.
SOUTH BANK QUAY, TEESWORKS.

Thank you for your letter in respect of the above discharge of condition 5.2.7 of Licence ref L/2021/00333/1A.

Condition 5.2.7
We have reviewed the provided document (South Bank Phase 1 (MLA/2020/00506) Scheme of Monitoring) and **do not recommend** the discharge of condition 5.2.7 at this present time as it does not meet our expectations regarding the amount of monitoring that is needed.

Below are specific points we would like to see improved/included:

- The document mentions that the buoy belonging to PD Teesport will be used as baseline data. It is mentioned that it is 10m upstream of the Harbour Master's Landing. We would like to get confirmation of where this buoy is, for example a grid reference or a map, so we can determine how representative of the site this will be.

- We expect to see more than two monitoring buoys deployed. We recommend that four monitoring buoys would be needed. One buoy would be us as a control as mentioned in the document (outside of the zone of disturbance), one buoy would be close to the western/upstream extent of the quay dredge, one would be near to the eastern/ downstream side of the dredge and one would be near to the turning circle/ other area to be dredged.

- The document only mentions monitoring turbidity. Dissolved oxygen is not mentioned in section 2. We would expect the applicant to monitor dissolved oxygen as well as turbidity. We would also like to see

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temperature and salinity measured at the four buoys. These are standard suites on many monitoring devices and therefore, should be able to be implemented.

- *Stop thresholds*- We expect the difference in readings between the control buoy and buoys within the zone of influence of the activity to be monitored. For dissolved oxygen, as with condition 5.2.9, if the influenced figure drops 1mg/l below the control we expect the activity to stop until it returns to within this 1mg/l range. For the other determinants, if the figure at the influenced buoy is outside of 10% difference with the control buoy, we expect activities to stop until these return to within 10% of the control level.

- The document does not mention at which level the monitoring will happen, for example at the surface, 1m below the surface. We would expect the monitoring to be undertaken at 1m above the estuary bed (and also 1m below surface-please see Fisheries section below).

- We would request that the buoys are installed longer than one week prior to the commencement of the dredging activity. This will provide more site specific background data rather than relying on data collected by the PD Teesport buoy.

- **Fisheries-**The applicant should undertake dissolved oxygen monitoring at the surface (1m below surface) for smolt migration impact mitigation. We would request that monitoring is undertaken for longer than one week prior to the commencement of the dredging activity. For the stop thresholds, we expect the difference in readings between the control buoy and buoys within the zone of influence of the activity to be monitored. For dissolved oxygen, as with condition 5.2.9, if the influenced figure drops 1mg/l below the control we expect the activity to stop until it returns to within this 1mg/l range.

If you have any questions in respect of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

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