

Mr Robbie Moore MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Our ref: MP/2020/7094

Date: 21 July 2020

Dear Mr Moore

Endless Energy: Application for Environmental Permit

Thank you for your time on Wednesday and for providing valuable feedback on the above permit application consultation. I was sorry to hear your concerns about the openness and transparency of our consultation. We want to be open and transparent in all of our work, and especially where, as with this consultation, we are dealing with an issue that is contentious and causing concern within the local community.

Our role is to ensure compliance with legislation which is written to prevent harm to human health and protect the environment. To help the community understand how we are doing this we are sharing our draft assessment of this Environmental Permit application and seeking feedback through consultation on our draft decision before we make a final decision.

Since our conversation we have decided to extend the consultation by 2 weeks. We want to ensure the community has sufficient time to view the additional information provided. The consultation will now close at midnight on Wednesday 12 August 2020.

When we determine an application for an environmental permit for a site of high public interest, we produce a draft decision document to help others understand how the application and related information has been considered. We also produce a draft permit to show the conditions we propose to require an operator to meet. We consider that the information in the draft decision document and the draft permit is sufficient to enable people to fully understand how we reached our minded-to decision to issue an environmental permit and it is these documents on which we are consulting and inviting comments.

Whilst the draft decision document and the draft permit are the documents we consult on, we also make other information available on request or where we believe it will be of interest:

- Often, as we are assessing an application, we request more information from applicants to aid our determination and whilst the decision document provides

our assessment of the information, in this case we felt that there would be interest in seeing the additional information provided by the applicant.

- Technical experts within the EA may provide separate documents which record their assessment of specific aspects of the application, in this case air modelling and noise.

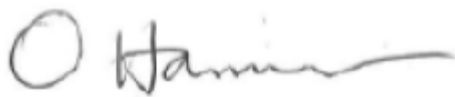
Neither the Environmental Permitting Regulations nor our procedures require us to consult on these documents, however, in this case and given the high levels of public concern, we felt that there would be interest in seeing the additional information provided by the applicant. This may also help reassure the local community that we have been thorough and evidence-based in our assessment. It is for these reasons that we included this additional information on 17 June 2020.

We are currently reviewing the questions from the AVAI group which we received on Tuesday 14 July 2020. For those questions that relate to data we hold, we will provide this as soon as possible as a separate information request response. For the questions that relate to our assessment of the permit application, we will record these as consultee responses and address them in our final decision document. Carly Chambers will share a copy of our response to the AVAI with you as requested.

After the consultation closes on 12 August 2020 we will consider all of the comments received before making our final decision. We will summarise all the consultation comments and how they have been addressed within our final decision document. This process may take several weeks to complete. Carly Chambers will continue to keep you informed but if you do have any questions please do get in touch with her.

I hope that this is helpful. I do realise what a difficult issue this is for your constituents and the anxiety it is causing. Whatever the outcome, I can assure you that we will continue to work to support the local community and will seek to work closely with you and other partner organisations in doing so.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'O Harmar', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Oliver Harmar
Director – Yorkshire