

From: Simon Chivers
Sent: 02 August 2019 15:04
To: Chay Dempster
Cc: Brian Owen; Emma Graham; Chris Carter; Mark Peacock; Jeanette Hollingsworth-Biggs
Subject: Application for the establishment of anew quarry on land at the former Hatfield Aerodrome - Your ref: 5/0394/16 (our ref: 6/2016/0009/CD)

Dear Chay,

Further to Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council's original comments dated 23rd September 2016 on the above application, and subsequent discussions over the issue of the bromate contaminant plume affecting groundwater in the vicinity of the application site, I am writing to you with this Council's further observations on this matter which I would ask that you take into consideration in the determination of the planning application.

Our original comments accepted the principle of mineral extraction at the site, subject to proper environmental safeguards during the periods of extraction and restoration. In relation to this we also appended the full comments of our Environmental Health Officer, which included the need to address potential contaminated land issues. Since that time, more has become known about the bromate plume affecting the groundwater in this area, and concerns have been expressed by local residents and their representatives over potential risks to human health from contaminants within drinking water supplies. We are aware of the earlier objection by Affinity Water to the application proposals, and that this was withdrawn by a letter from Affinity dated 20th May 2019. In addition, earlier this year the Environment Agency undertook a consultation on continuing remediation measures. This culminated in the issue by the Agency of a second remediation notice relating to the sources of pollution on 17th July 2019. These latest actions by the Environment Agency emphasise the continuing importance of addressing the bromate contamination issue and have prompted us to send this supplementary comment.

Matters relating to contamination of water courses and the governance over suitable and sufficient abstraction sources lie with the Environment Agency and it is not for the Local Authority to comment on the specific technical requirements or their approach, however WHBC has a legal responsibility to ensure private water supplies in our area comply with drinking water standards and we also have a duty of care to our residents and workplaces in that they have safe and adequate supplies of public drinking water. The Health Protection Regulations 2010 place duties on the Local Authority to make reasonable enquiries and apply for a Part 2A order if there is evidence of infection or contamination to prevent the spread of such infection or contamination.

Therefore, with these responsibilities in mind, we would like to request confirmation that full information has been provided by the applicant and the relevant technical consultees to ensure that HCC is in a position to provide a fully comprehensive and accurate assessment of the application as regards the impact of the mineral extraction proposals on the bromate contamination. In the event that the application continues to be reported with a recommendation for permission, this will allow appropriate and effective conditions to be devised and applied to protect public health.

Following the deferral of a decision on the application at HCC's Development Control Committee on 24th July, I would be very grateful if you would keep us updated concerning the progress of the application towards determination.

Thank you for your continuing assistance in this matter.

Kind regards,

Simon

Simon Chivers MRTPI
Principal Planner – Projects,
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
Tel: 01707 357347
Email: s.chivers@welhat.gov.uk

Working better, together

www.welhat.gov.uk
[@WelHatCouncil](#)
[Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council](#)