

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Net Zero Teesside Project](#)
Subject: RE: Net Zero Teesside Project - Environmental matters issue specific hearing 14/15 July
Date: 07 July 2022 15:18:15
Attachments: [REDACTED]

Good afternoon Sian,

Sorry I missed your call yesterday but thank you for following up with an e-mail.

Natural England's general policy with regards to hearings is that we do not have the capacity to attend and that we focus our effort on the Written Representations / Examining Authority's Questions. I can confirm that we will not be able to attend the hearing next week.

Our Written Representations provide a clear statement of our position on the issue of nutrient neutrality and this is further supported by the Matters Not Yet Agreed section of the Statement of Common Ground, which we continue to work with the applicant on. In the first instance, I would direct you to those two documents.

However, I understand that nutrient neutrality is a relatively new issue for consideration, so I will outline our position with regards to Net Zero Teesside below:

- Most industrial developments will not be in scope of the nutrient neutrality advice, except for when the development-specific industrial processes will result in a contribution of nitrates to the catchment of the River Tees.
- As the Net Zero Teesside Project proposes to discharge industrial waste water to the Tees Bay, which will contain nitrates, it is possible that a sufficient quantity of this will be washed back into the estuary.
- Natural England has requested the applicant provide modelling to demonstrate if the waste water is likely to reach Seal Sands (the part of the estuary that is in unfavourable condition due to nitrates), and if so what the volume and concentrations of nitrates are likely to be.
- The applicant has agreed to provide this modelling but has not done so yet. Natural England will review this evidence once it is available but cannot comment further until that point.

In summary, we have raised the issue of nutrient neutrality with the applicant and are waiting for the applicant to provide modelling to allow us to determine if the development is in scope of our nutrient neutrality advice.

If there are any specific questions that you would like Natural England to answer before or as a result of the hearing, we would be happy to review them and will respond as soon as we can.

Best wishes,
Nick

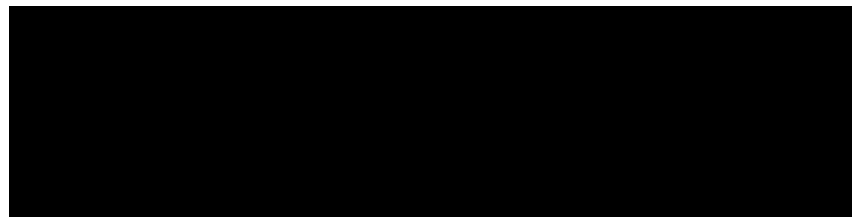
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- the [Pre-submission Screening Service \(PSS\)](#) for European Protected Species mitigation licence applications.