

2 JAN 2019

Hertfordshire County Council  
Spatial Planning & Economy Unit  
County Hall  
Pegs Lane  
Hertford  
SG13 8DN

For the attention of: Chay Dempster

**By post and e-mail**

18 December 2018

Dear Sirs

***Application reference PL\0755\16 for the establishment of a new quarry on land at the former Hatfield Aerodrome by Brett Aggregates Limited***

I write further to our objection to above application made on 13 August 2018 and the e-mail received from Mr Dempster dated 28 November 2018.

As we explained in our letter dated 13 August 2018, Affinity Water is appointed as water undertaker under the Water Industry Act 1991. It provides drinking water to approximately 3.6 million customers in parts of North London and the Home Counties and to customers in the Dover and Folkestone and East Tendring areas.

We have a statutory duty under section 37 of the Water Industry Act 1991 to develop and maintain an efficient and economical system of water supply and to ensure that all necessary arrangements have been made for providing supplies of water and for maintaining, improving and extending our water mains and other pipes.

The proposed new quarry referenced above is located within our Central region. The water we supply in this area is abstracted from groundwater sources and we have abstractions that could be affected by the proposed development.

Mr Dempster's e-mail dated 28 November 2018 specifically requested comments on the Groundwater Management Plan (GWMP) prepared by SLR Consulting and dated November 2018. We have reviewed the GWMP and are satisfied with its content.

We do not, however, consider the GWMP alone is sufficient to ensure that the proposed quarrying activities pursuant to the proposed permission do not affect the mobilisation of the existing plume of bromate contamination, and thereby render the water currently abstracted by Affinity Water at our Tyttenhanger and Roestock Chalk groundwater sources unfit for public water supply purposes.

This plume is the subject of a long-standing management regime pursuant to a remediation notice under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 which could be interfered with if appropriate monitoring and controls of the quarrying activities are not in place. Under the current management regime, Affinity Water abstracts from "scavenging" boreholes at Bishops Rise, Hatfield to manage the existing bromate plume present within the chalk groundwater so as to limit the movement of the plume into existing public water supplies further down-hydraulic gradient (i.e. our Essendon source and a number of Thames Water sources). The contaminated water which is "scavenged" is treated and disposed off to the sewerage system, so is not used for the purposes of public supply. The proposed quarrying activities may adversely affect this long-standing management regime.

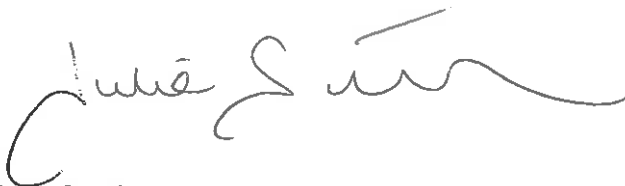
Our Tyttenhanger and Roestock sources are to the south of the existing location of the plume and are outside of its area of influence. There is a risk that quarrying activity could direct the plume towards the south impacting on existing public water supplies at Tyttenhanger and Roestock. They are important and long standing public water supply sources, and it is essential that an appropriate regime is in place to avoid the proposed quarrying activities impacting on the protection of the supply sources from the bromate plume. It is therefore critical that this matter is fully resolved before any permission is granted.

As we explained in our letter dated 13 August 2018, we are seeking to enter into a private agreement with the applicant/operator that will set out additional controls specifically related to protection of our sources at Tyttenhanger and Roestock. We have had constructive meetings with the applicant but have not yet concluded an agreement.

We therefore maintain our objection to this application on grounds of potential impact on sources of water used for public water supply.

Please can you confirm that the permission will not be granted until these matters have been fully resolved and the necessary agreement(s) and planning condition(s) pursuant to the permission have been agreed with us.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julie Smith", written over a horizontal line.

Julie Smith  
Head of Legal Services

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