

AGENDA ITEM 6

APPENDIX 17

2018/0151/DET

**APPLICANT RESPONSE TO
SEPA COMMENTS**

Our Ref: RG547-51/RK

Cairngorms National Park Authority
14 The Square
Grantown-on-Spey
PH26 3HG

2 July 2018

BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Sir/Madam,

**DALWHINNIE QUARRY, DALWHINNIE
PLANNING APPLICATION FOR THE RECOMMENCEMENT AND EXTENSION TO THE QUARRY**

PLANNING REFERENCE: 2018/0151/DET

I write with regards to SEPA's comments dated 21 June 2018 made in relation to The Ground Water & Surface Water Management Plan Revision 1 (May 2018) and the Environmental Management Plan Revision 1 (May 2018).

SEPA maintained its objection on the grounds of lack of information, this objection was detailed further in Section 1 and 2 in its letter of the 21 June 2018. The following commentary provides a response on the aforementioned sections and for ease of reference SEPA's comment is provided first, with the Applicant's response following.

Section 1 Ground Water and Surface Water Management

SEPA's Comment

- 1.1 As stated above we have reviewed the information submitted to us for review and as in our previous response we would like further information on the management of water in the quarry.
- 1.2 With regards to water abstraction, we would like to know the volume of water that will be abstracted in total and per day/hour. The Ground Water & Surface Water Management Plan Rev 1 (May 2018) states in section 2.2 that dewatering of the waterbody in the existing quarry meets the requirements of General Binding Rule (GBR) 15. It should be noted that GBR 15 is not applicable in this instance as the abstraction is surface water and not groundwater. GBR 2 may be applicable in this instance. However as stated previously we need information on the volume of water to be abstracted.

Applicant's Response

In Section 2.2 of the Ground Water & Surface Water Management Plan Rev 1 (May 2018) we have quoted from The Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 (as amended) – A Practical Guide - Section 4. This states that SEPA will not require authorisation for the following abstraction activities:

'Abstraction of rainwater from construction site excavations or quarries of volcanic or metamorphic rocks (e.g. basalt, granite and schist). Note that the abstraction of groundwater from excavations is a controlled activity to which GBR15 applies (see Sections 4.1 and 4.3) as is the abstraction of groundwater from quarries.'

It is our interpretation that the abstraction of rainwater from the site does not require authorisation.

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Applicant's Response (continued)

Section 2.2 of the Ground Water & Surface Water Management Plan Rev 1 (May 2018) also states:
While the water in the quarry is sourced from rainwater, if the water in the quarry is assessed as groundwater the abstraction (dewatering) of the waterbody in the existing quarry meets the requirements of GBR 15.

With the water in the quarry sourced directly from rainwater the water in the quarry is surface water rather than groundwater as SEPA highlight in 1.2 above. The reference to GBR 15 was included only for completeness.

Survey data was used to calculate the total volume of water to be pumped / abstracted from the quarry at between 25,000 and 27,000m³.

SEPA's Comment

- 1.3 It is stated in Section 2.5 that a soakaway will be used to manage water on site. It should be noted that this proposal/feature is not a soakaway but settlement pond with indirect discharge to groundwater. We would like further information on the volume of water to be discharged in total and per day/hour.

Applicant's Response

The total volume of water to be discharged from the quarry is between 25,000 and 27,000m³. The quarry will utilise a submersible pump controlled by float switch. The operation of this is discussed in Section 2.1 of the Ground Water and Surface Water Management Plan. The pump discharges into a sequence of shallow settlement ponds which have been designed to operate as a soakaway.

The proposed shallow settlement ponds will operate on the same principle as infiltration basins as used in SuDS systems designed to manage rainfall runoff. A second float switch will control the water level in these ponds as discussed in section 2.5 of the Ground Water and Surface Water Management Plan. The daily abstraction and discharge volume will be controlled by the two float switches operating the pump. Calculated pumping volumes based on the hydraulic head and pipe length indicate a theoretical maximum volume of 950.5m³ using a 3" pump, this assumes the pump is operational continuously for a 24 hour period.

The pump volume will be reduced by the use of the two float switches, if the settlement ponds are full of water then the pump will not switch on. When the water level in the ponds drops due to infiltration, the float switch triggers the pump, re-filling the pond until the water level rises to trigger the float switch when the pump is switched off again.

Once the quarry is dry and returns to operational use the pump will only run on an intermittent basis, in periods of high rainfall and reduced water use in the quarry with the float switch in the quarry sump controlling the pump.



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Section 2 Pollution Prevention and Environmental Management

SEPA's Comment

2.1 We ask that the Environmental Management Plan Revision 1 (May 2018) be updated to address the following;

In section 5.3 on surface water management, we would like to know what the size of the sump is in metres cube (m³). We would also like to know when the operator the operator will use the sump and the lagoon.

Applicant's Response

A revised version of both the Ground Water & Surface Water Management Plan and Environmental Management Plan, are included with this submission.

Initially the quarry sump will be approximately 10m by 8m in size, with a depth of between 3 and 5m. This will result in a capacity of between 240 and 400m³. As the footprint of the quarry develops the sump will be increased in size to approximately 18m by 25m as shown on the Phase 1 SWMP plan (Drawing No. RG547/SWMP/F/02A), this will have a capacity of between 1350m³ and 2250m³.

The sump will be in use throughout the period the quarry is in operation, providing a source of dust suppression water for rock processing and general quarry operations, as discussed in Section 3.3 of the Ground Water and Surface Water Management Plan and Section 5.3 of the Environmental Management Plan.

The shallow settlement ponds will be retained during phase 1 of the quarry development. The ponds will be used in the initial dewatering of the quarry, once dewatering is completed and quarry operations re-start the ponds will only be in intermittent operation. During normal quarry operations no water will be present in the ponds unless the pump in the quarry sump is triggered by the float switch.

SEPA's Comment

In section 5.6, with regards to waste water drainage/discharge, we would like further details of this proposal and also would like to know if this septic tank discharge (to be used to treat waste water) is registered. We do not have information regarding this.

Applicant's Response

At present there is no infrastructure in place at Dalwhinnie Quarry, the previous operator utilised a temporary/mobile cabin which is no longer on site. When operations restart at the quarry a septic tank and associated discharge will be installed. An infiltration test will be undertaken to ensure the ground conditions are suitable and the tank will be installed to the manufacturer's specification. Once installed this will be registered with SEPA.

SEPA's Comment

In section 6.1, the fuel storage on site adheres to the –Water Environment (Oil storage) (Scotland) Regulations 2006. It should be noted that this is now superseded by The Water Environment (Miscellaneous) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 and therefore we ask that the applicant/developer references the 2017 regulations and also ensures that practices reflect the requirements of the most recent regulations.



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Applicant's Response

This is an administrative oversight and all references in the attached revised document has been updated to reflect the current legislation.

SEPA's Comment

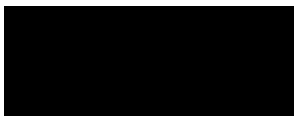
In 6.2 'Refuelling Procedures, we note the proposals to prevent spillage but this does not include the use of 'Drip trays'. We would like see this being used to prevent pollution or to know if there is another mechanism used on site for this purpose.

Applicant's Response

The document has been revised to include the use of drip trays along with the use of absorbent material while re-fuelling.

I trust you find the above and documents to be in order. Should you require further information then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Rich Kenyon
Associate Director

Enc.