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OUR REFERENCE

2021/WHR03 – WHR04

DATE

25th April 2024

██████████
Northern Ireland Environment
Division

By Email

Dear ██████████

2021/WHR01 – a Public Local Inquiry under Schedule 1, paragraph (3) of the Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 for a consent to discharge application TrC 080/20_1 – DAERA, on behalf of Dalradian Gold Ltd.

2021/WHR02 - a Public Local Inquiry under Schedule 1, paragraph (3) of the Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 for a consent to discharge application Ltd TrC 081/20_1 – DAERA, on behalf of Dalradian Gold Ltd.

The above applications were referred to the Commission on 5 November 2021 requesting that public inquiries be undertaken. These applications are two of eight requests to the Commission to hold public inquiries in relation to the Dalradian project. It has been requested that the public inquiries be undertaken in a conjoined manner. The Commission has taken a number of steps to progress with the conjoined public inquiry.

As you will be aware from on-going correspondence, the Commission has raised concerns that there was no jurisdiction to direct us to consider the representations in respect of the water abstraction and impoundment license applications. In light of the position outlined in the NIEA response (copy enclosed), the public inquiries into the abstraction and impoundment license applications can no longer form part of the current conjoined public inquiry which is expected to open on 10th September 2024. The Commission will be notifying parties accordingly and advising that statements of case should no longer be submitted in respect of the abstraction and impoundment applications.

As outlined above, all requests for the relevant public inquiries had been co-ordinated by the referring authorities so that all related applications would be considered together as part of a conjoined inquiry. Deadlines for the submission of statements of case and rebuttals are set for 31 May and 3 July respectively. The Commission is writing to ascertain how you wish to proceed in the absence of the public inquiries into the water abstraction and impoundment applications.

Given that the deadlines set out above, it is important that you provide instructions as a matter of urgency. The Commission requests the written response of NIEA/DAERA by **2pm on 1st May 2024**.

In line with the Commission's policy of openness and transparency, this correspondence will be uploaded to the Commission's website.

Yours sincerely



Programme Officer