



16 July 2024

Mrs Heather Morrison
Principal Planning Officer
Thriving Place and Investment
Cumberland Council
Market Hall
Market Place
Whitehaven
CA28 7JG

Our ref: PLC/BCC/2219

Dear Mrs Morrison,

PLANNING APPLICATION– The drilling of six temporary boreholes to support the selection of an in-ground testing area.

Sellafield Ltd is hereby applying for full planning permission for the drilling of six temporary boreholes to support the selection of an in-ground testing area. This application is a duplication of application 4/24/2165/OF1, which was submitted under the same name. There is a requirement to submit an additional application due to an error in condition 1 of the original planning consent.

Planning approval for application 4/24/2165/OF1 was granted on 27 June 2024. Condition 1 of the planning permission stated the following:

The boreholes and associated development hereby permitted shall be removed by 31 July 2026 and the land restored to its former condition on or before this date in accordance with a scheme of work submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason

The use hereby approved is not considered appropriate as a permanent form of development in order to safeguard the amenities of the locality.

Section 2.9 of the submitted Design and Access Statement states that “We will aim to decommission the boreholes at the earliest opportunity. This may be up to 2 years at each location to allow the collection of groundwater samples”. However, this timescale is indicative, and does not account for the time it will take Sellafield Ltd to carry out preparatory works and begin the drilling, nor the time taken to fully decommission the boreholes and remove all supporting equipment and infrastructure. Pre-application discussions held with Cumberland Council prior to the planning submission confirmed that an expiry date of 31 December 2027 would be acceptable to allow Sellafield Ltd to carry out the works.

Therefore, it is considered that condition 1 does not provide adequate time for Sellafield Ltd to carry out the proposed development. The boreholes are required to support the identification of a



suitable test site for the undertaking of in-ground trials to support possible ground remediation works on the Sellafield Ltd operational site. It is therefore important to ensure adequate time is granted to carry out this work correctly and ensure that the ground has been thoroughly investigated and remediated.

Sellafield Ltd discussed this position with Cumberland Council on Friday 5 June 2024. During this meeting it was agreed that Sellafield Ltd would make a further submission, with Cumberland Council issuing a new approval expiring on the 31 December 2027.

This letter therefore supports the submission of a new application with a realistic and appropriate timeframe to carry out the works. The submission documents are the same and there are no amendments to the proposed scheme of works. This is with the exception of an amended application form and planning, design and access statement to include the word 'temporary' in the title for the avoidance of doubt. It is understood that if this planning submission is successful, it will sit alongside the approval under 4/24/2165/0F1. The proposed works are anticipated to commence in August 2024.

The following electronic files have been submitted in support of the planning application:

- Completed Application Form, including Ownership Certificates
- Combined Planning and Design and Access Statement
- Ecological Impact Assessment
- Ground Investigation report for Tarn Head Farm
- Ground Investigation report for Mid Tarn Farm

Drawings

- BE3159599 Site Location Plan
- BE3159601 Topographic Plan
- BE3159610 Tarn Head Farm Block Plan
- BE3159611 Mid Tarn Farm Block Plan

It has been agreed with Cumberland Council that no fee is required for the validation of this application as it is a duplication of the original planning consent.

Please send all planning enquiries and correspondence to the Sellafield Ltd Development Control Team at development.control@sellafieldsites.com.

Yours sincerely,

p.p. Euan Hutton
Chief Executive Officer
Sellafield Ltd