



PROGRAMME OFFICER

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Chief Executive NIEA
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cc. Water Regulation Team

By Email

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YOUR REFERENCE
AIL 2024/0003 & AIL 2024/0004

DATE
14 May 2024

Re: Requests for a Public Local Inquiry under Regulation 17 of the Water Abstraction and Impoundment (Licensing) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 for application AIL 2024 0003 & AIL 2024 0004 – NIEA, to abstract and impound water on behalf of Dalradian Gold Ltd.

Dear ██████████

Thank you for your correspondence dated 3rd May 2024.

The Commission has previously outlined that once we are in receipt of a valid direction from DAERA in relation to the abstraction and impoundment license applications together with all of the relevant papers in respect of those applications, it will move to set directions and new dates for the submissions of statements of case, rebuttals and for the opening of the re-scheduled hearing sessions for all eight elements of the conjoined inquiry.

Once we are in receipt of the papers in respect of the new applications the appointed Commissioner will review them. Only when we are satisfied that there are no further procedural issues arising will we move to confirm the new timetable. In the interim you may wish to confirm that your organisation was in receipt of representations made to the new applications in line with the statutory requirements prior to issuing the Direction, as this may well address a possible procedural issue.

We have now asked on two previous occasions for an approximate timeframe of the processing times for the new water abstraction and impoundment applications and referral thereafter and we would appreciate if you could provide the same to assist in forward planning. We do hope that the delay will not be unduly prolonged but given that these are new applications which we are advised contain new information, it would not be possible to run with the dates for the hearing sessions as originally planned or with the dates suggested in your letter of 2 May.

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

Yours sincerely,

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Chief Commissioner