

By Email

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024

**RE: THE CONJOINED PUBLIC LOCAL INQUIRIES COMPRISING OF:**

- 1. 2021/C005 - a Public Local Inquiry under Section 26(10) of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 for planning application LA10/2017/1249/F on behalf of Dalradian Gold Ltd for '*Underground valuable minerals mining and exploration, surface level development including processing plant and other associated development and ancillary works*', Greencastle, County Tyrone at lands 165m West of No. 45 Camcosy Road to the junction of Camcosy Road and Crockanboy Road to Lands 47m to the South East of No. 73 Crockanboy Road.**
- 2. 2021/C006 – a Public Local Inquiry under Section 29(6) of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 for planning application LA10/2019/1386/F on behalf of NIE Networks for a '*33kV power line involving both construction of above ground 33kV overhead line supported by wooden poles and underground 33kV cable laid below ground level in ducts, to serve Curraghinalt mine (currently under consideration - planning application LA10/2017/1249/F). 33kV connection is c37.9 km in length, comprising of c26.9 km of overhead line supported by single and double wooden pole sets and c11 km of underground cabling c 15.1 km of the powerline is within the Fermanagh & Omagh District Council area comprising of c 8.2 km of overhead line supported by single and double wooden pole sets and c 6.9 km of underground cabling*' at lands 737m NW of 56 Mullydoo Road Greencastle through townlands of Crockanboy Teebane West Casorna Rousky Drumlea Garvagh Meenadoo Trinamadan and Culvacullion ending at 785m NW of 24 Meenadoo Road, Culvacullion, Gortin'.**
- 3. 2021/C007 – a Public Local Inquiry under Section 29(6) of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 for planning application LA11/2019/1000/F on behalf of NIE Networks for '*a 33kV power line involving both construction of above ground 33kV overhead line supported by wooden poles and underground 33kV cable laid below ground level in ducts, to serve Curraghinalt mine (currently under consideration planning application LA10/2017/1249/F). 33kV connection***

*is c37.9 km in length, comprising of c26.9 km of overhead line supported by single and double wooden pole sets and c11 km of underground cabling. c 22.8 km of the powerline is within the Derry City & Strabane District Council area comprising of c 18.7km of overhead line supported by single and double wooden pole sets and c 4.1 km of underground cabling’ at lands Adjoining 89 Woodend Road Ballymagorry through townlands of Ballymagorry, Woodend, Milltown, Ballee, Holly-hill, Kennaghan, Owenreagh, Knockanbrack, Lagvittal, Knocklnarvoer, Craignagapple, Lagavadder, Ballykeery, Craigatuke, Meendamph, Balix Upper, Letterbrat Glencoppogagh (Main Portion) Aghalane and Lisnacraight ending at 681m NW of 24 Meenadoo Road, Culvacullion, Gortin.*

4. **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.**
5. **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.**
6. **2024/WHR01 – a Public Local Inquiry under Regulation 17 of the Water Abstraction and Impoundment (Licencing) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 for application AIL 2024 0008 – NIEA, to abstract and impound water on behalf of Dalradian Gold Ltd.**
7. **2024/WHR02 - a Public Local Inquiry under Regulation 17 of the Water Abstraction and Impoundment (Licencing) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 for application AIL 2024 0009 – NIEA, to abstract and impound water on behalf of Dalradian Gold Ltd.**
8. **2021/DR001 – a Public Local Inquiry for a proposed road abandonment order for part of the Crockanboy Road for application (IN1-21-5706) under paragraph 4 of Schedule 8 of the Roads Order (Northern Ireland) 1993 on behalf of Dalradian Gold Ltd.**

Dear Sir/Madam

The Department for Infrastructure (DfI), the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) have asked the Commission to conduct Public Local Inquiries to consider representations made in respect of the applications listed above comprising of the ‘Curraghinalt Project (Dalradian Gold)’. A Pre-Inquiry meeting took place on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024. As a result of procedural issues arising the original timetable was suspended. The Commission is now in a position to set out the revised arrangements.

A separate letter will issue to those who made representations to the two water abstraction and impoundment license applications (AIL 2024/0008 and AIL 2024/0009). The public local

inquiries for water abstraction and impoundment license applications will form part of the conjoined inquiries and will be subject to the arrangements set out below.

The Commission will open the public local inquiries at **10.30am on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025**. These will be held in person at the Strule Arts Centre, Omagh. Further details, including a draft timetable will be communicated to parties via the Commission's website by 4pm on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

As per the revised "*Procedures for the Curraghinalt Project (Dalradian Gold) conjoined Public Local Inquiries*" document published on the Commission's website you are encouraged to pool resources together with people with common cause in nominating representatives to speak at the inquiries.

Please ensure that all statements of case are submitted to the Commission by **4.00pm on Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024**. You may submit statements of case electronically. Separate statements of case are requested for the different elements of the inquiry. You may submit a statement of case for one or more elements of the inquiry if you have made representations to the relevant department in relation to those applications. The arrangements are as follows:

- (i) A statement of case for the Curraghinalt Mine Project (LA10/2017/1249/F) which should not exceed 3,000 words;
- (ii) A statement of case for the Curraghinalt 33Kv Project (including both LA10/2019/1386/F and LA11/2019/1000/F) which should not exceed 3,000 words;
- (iii) (iii) A statement of case for the proposed road abandonment order which should not exceed 1,500 words; and
- (iv) A statement of case for the two applications (TrC 080/20\_1 – DAERA and TrC 081/20\_1 – DAERA) for consent to discharge which should not exceed 1,500 words.

Appendices may be used for supporting information, but arguments must be confined to the main body of the statement. Please note that if your statement of case and rebuttals are over the word limit outlined above you must submit an executive summary. Also, approximately 560 people have indicated that they wish to submit a statement of case and rebuttal. However, 160 people have not supplied an email address and therefore a full electronic exchange of evidence cannot occur. Parties are therefore asked to supply an electronic copy and hardcopies by the dates specified. The applicants, the Departments and the third-party supporters of the proposal are requested to provide 165 hard copies of each document, most of which will be distributed to the third-party objectors. The objectors need to provide 13 hard copies of each document.

The Departments, whilst reserving their opinions on the final outcome of the applications, will be expected to give clear views on each of the main issues before the inquiries. All parties will have an opportunity to comment on any suggested conditions. The conditions will be discussed on a without prejudice basis.

The Commission will exchange the statements of case following their submission. Your clients will be afforded an opportunity to comment in writing on the other parties' statements **by 4.00pm on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2024**. The total length of any rebuttal statement should not exceed 1,500 words. At this stage we expect the applicants, the referring authorities and the third-party supporters of the proposal to provide 165 hard copies of each document, most of which will be distributed to the third-party objectors. The objectors need to provide 13 hard copies of each document.

The Commission proposes to conduct the inquiries using a combination of formal and informal hearing procedures. However, invoking formal procedures will be at the discretion of the presiding Commissioners. Written evidence will be taken as read and there will be no opening statements from the parties. The inquiries will work through an agenda prepared by the Commissioners, who will lead a round table discussion on each agenda item in turn. Before moving on from each item, the Commissioners will give all parties an opportunity for submissions to cover any issues pertinent to that item. After the conjoined inquiries, the Commission will prepare the separate reports with recommendations on the issues raised within the representations to the respective Departments. The final decision on all the applications will rest with the Departments.

As referred to above, the Commission has produced a bespoke booklet entitled "*Procedures for the Curraghinalt Project (Dalradian Gold) conjoined Public Local Inquiries*". The booklet can be downloaded from our website [www.pacni.gov.uk](http://www.pacni.gov.uk). If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully,

**Jemma Lynas**  
**Chief Administrative Officer**

### **SUMMARY OF ARRANGEMENTS**

Statements of case by:- **4pm on 18/10/2024**  
Rebuttals by:- **4pm on 25/11/2024**  
Inquiry opens at:- **10.30am on 13/01/2025**