

[REDACTED]  
James House  
Gasworks Site  
2 - 4 Cromac Avenue  
Belfast  
BT7 2JA

Date: 23rd December 2024

Dear [REDACTED],

**RE: THE TIMETABLE FOR THE CONJOINED PUBLIC LOCAL INQUIRIES COMPRISING OF THE CURRAGHINALT PROJECT**

**YOUR REF:**

- 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.**

Thank you for your letter dated 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024.


As you will be aware, the Department caused the Inquiries for the purpose of considering the representations in respect of each of the three applications above. The Department will already be aware of those matters raised from its consideration of those representations.

At the pre-inquiry meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024 the Commission asked the Department to produce a list of issues it wanted the Inquiries to consider in line with its Statement of Community Involvement at that time. In response the Department stated that it would produce a list of issues within its Statement of Case. The Department produced a list of 11 headline topics within its Statement of Case. Had the Department wished for the topics to be further detailed, it should have included these within its Statement of Case.

Nevertheless, the Commission has expanded this list, with 19 headline topics in its timetable. The Commission considers that the timetable as published provides a sufficient level of detail to enable all parties to prepare for and participate in an efficient manner. It will not be issuing a revised timetable.

The Commission notes the Department’s neutral stance, as well as its comments on the role of consultees. Whilst the Department is entitled to take a neutral stance, it is expected that it will be in attendance, as a referring authority, to respond to questions pertaining to the issues raised before the Inquiries in respect of the planning applications.

Regards

  
Office Manager