

Planning Team A – Minerals and Waste  
Economic Growth and Infrastructure  
Dorset Council

Sent by email

Date: 18 November 2020

Reference: XI/1811/202/8A

Chemicals, Explosives,  
Microbiological Hazards Division –  
Explosives Inspectorate

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Merton Road  
Bootle  
Merseyside, L20 7HS

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/>

Acting Head of Unit and Chief  
Inspector of Explosives - Sally  
Lloyd Davies

Dear Sir/Madam

**REQUESTS FOR ADVICE IN RESPECT OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS IN THE VICINITY OF LICENSED EXPLOSIVES FACILITIES**

**PLANNING REF: WP/20/00692/DCC**

**PROPOSAL: CONSTRUCTION OF AN ENERGY RECOVERY FACILITY WITH ANCILLARY BUILDINGS AND WORKS INCLUDING ADMINISTRATIVE FACILITIES, GATEHOUSE AND WEIGHBRIDGE, PARKING AND CIRCULATION AREAS, CABLE ROUTES TO SHIP BERTHS AND EXISTING OFF-SITE ELECTRICAL SUB-STATION, WITH SITE ACCESS THROUGH PORTLAND PORT FROM CASTLETOWN**

**LOCATION: PORTLAND PORT, CASTLETOWN, PORTLAND DT5 1PP**

Thank you for your email of 6 November 2020 regarding the above planning application. From the plans provided it is clear that the proposed development falls within the vulnerable building consultation zone of the nearby licensed explosives facility but outside the inhabited building distance. The Explosives Inspectorate has no comment to make on the planning application provided that the development is not a vulnerable building.

“Vulnerable building” means a building or structure of vulnerable construction, that is to say—

(a) a building of more than three storeys above ground or 12m in height constructed with continuous non-load bearing curtain walling with individual glazed or frangible panels larger than 1.5m<sup>2</sup> and extending over more than 50% or 120m<sup>2</sup> of the surface of any elevation;

(b) a building of more than three storeys above ground or 12m in height with solid walls and individual glass panes or frangible panels larger than 1.5m<sup>2</sup> and extending over at least 50% of any elevation;

(c) a building of more than 400m<sup>2</sup> plan area with continuous or individual glazing panes larger than 1.5m<sup>2</sup> extending over at least 50% or 120m<sup>2</sup> of the plan area; or

(d) any other structure that, in consequence of an event such as an explosion, may be susceptible to disproportionate damage such as progressive collapse.

This development includes a structure that would generally be considered to be a vulnerable building that is within the SD3 distance from the licensed anchorages present inside the breakwater. If this development were to proceed as proposed HSE would expect to review the maximum quantity of explosives permitted to be present at those anchorages. In the absence of a demonstration that the structures proposed are not vulnerable HSE would expect to reduce the quantity of explosive permitted to be present at those anchorages.

If you require further advice on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Yours faithfully

Martyn Sime  
HM Inspector of Explosives  
HM Explosives Inspectorate

