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22 September 2015

Leo Goodwin
Commercial Development Director, Rail
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London NW1 5DH

by email only

Dear Leo,

Access to the East Coast Main Line

1. This letter updates our post-hearing letter to all stakeholders on next steps, it notes the key point made in your 28 August letter to us and asks you about the internal sign-off your proposal has. It also explains how we will handle confidentiality of future correspondence.
2. In our letter to stakeholders of 12 August 2015, we asked you to hold the morning of Wednesday 14 October in diaries for a possible discussion of capacity and infrastructure works. Network Rail remains on course to answer our questions by Friday 2 October which will now also include feed-back from a performance workshop it ran last week.
3. This means we can now confirm we expect to publish Network Rail's response to us by close on 2 October and, as previously advised, we would like your written comments by **Friday 9 October**. We also confirm we will be going ahead with a discussion for applicants, Network Rail and DfT representatives on the capacity, infrastructure and performance issues on **Wednesday 14 October**. Please email us by Monday 28 September at rme.admin@orr.gsi.gov.uk to say who, space permitting, you would like to come. You will be able to update your list later in light of Network Rail's response.
4. In our 12 August letter we also set out the next steps for the CH2M HILL economic report. Meetings between CH2M and all applicants, DfT and affected current open access operators have now taken place and the key inputs requested at these meetings have now been received.
5. However, assembling and carefully checking these inputs has taken longer than planned and it is now unlikely CH2M will be able to publish a full draft report on Friday 23 October as we had hoped. It should, however, be able to circulate parts of the draft report

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dealing with methodology and input assumptions on **23 October**, so we would welcome your comments on those sections by **30 October** and we could usefully discuss them on **Wednesday 4 November**. Please therefore keep **4 November** free in your diaries for this.

6. We now expect CH2M's full draft report will be circulated on **20 November** for written comments by **Friday 27 November**. It is also likely we will want to go through the full draft report in a meeting with applicants and DfT; please can you put an additional placeholder in diaries for the morning of **Tuesday 1 December**. We will confirm nearer the time if we need this and the agenda.

Internal sign-off

7. Please can you confirm by **Monday 28 September** what level of sign-off your application has internally. In particular under what circumstances do you need to secure further internal clearance (and for what and from whom) should your application be successful?

Performance bilateral meetings

8. In your letter of 28 August 2015, you proposed that it would be productive to have one to one engagement between Network Rail and applicants. I confirm we have suggested this to Network Rail, who should be arranging one to one meetings with applicants in addition to the industry workshop last week.

Timetables

9. In your letter of 11 September you made a number of observations about the timetable files that have been developed by CH2M. CH2M is considering these and others' points as it finalises the timetable files to be tested.

Confidentiality

10. To aid transparency and to streamline our ECML processes, we will assume all future correspondence from applicants on the ECML applications is not confidential and can be published in full through our website.

11. Anything that you believe should be kept confidential should be clearly marked as such when it is sent to us. You should explain at the same time how publication would or might seriously and prejudicially affect your interests.

12. Please contact me, Rob Plaskitt, Ian Williams or David Reed if you need to discuss. We will be publishing this letter on our website.

Yours sincerely



John Larkinson