

Gravesham Borough Council
Civil Centre
Windmill Street
Gravesend, Kent
DA12 1AU
Sent by email
Date: 12/02/2024

Reference: XI/1811/143/8D

Chemicals, Explosives,
Microbiological Hazards Division
– Explosives Inspectorate

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

Head of Unit and Chief
Inspector of Explosives –
David Brown

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

PLANNING REF: 20231313

PROPOSAL: : Proposed construction of a new cable tunnel beneath the River Thames between Gravesend and Tilbury to provide additional transmission capacity. Above-ground infrastructure in the form of a new Cable Sealing End compound and a new head house building along with associated electricity infrastructure, access, parking, boundary treatment and two overhead gantry structures for future overhead lines. Temporary compound for the duration of the project to provide parking, staff welfare facilities, delivery vehicle parking, and equipment and machinery storage, including boundary treatment and lighting.

LOCATION: Eastcourt Marshes Electricity Distribution Site , Mark Lane, Gravesend, Kent DA12 2HN

Thank you for your email of 30th January 2024 regarding the above planning application. From the information provided it appears that the development is at approximately 4.302 RB from the licensed site i.e. at a greater distance than the 3 RB currently expected for this type of development. Given the nature and the location of this type of development I would not expect there to be a significant impact on the outcomes of the original casualty survey. As the proposed developments fall outside of SD2, but within SD3, of the nearby licensed explosive port. Provided that the proposed developments do not constitute as a 'vulnerable' buildings HSE has no comment to make.

"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 1.5m² and extending over more than 50% or 120m² 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 1.5m² and extending over at least 50% of any elevation;
- (c) a building of more than 400m² plan area with continuous or individual glazing panes larger than 1.5m² extending over at least 50% or 120m² 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 advice is provided in relation to the proximity of the development to an HSE licensed explosives site. If the development is also in the proximity of any other major hazards site or pipelines then advice should be sought through HSE's WebApp in the first instance - <https://pa.hsl.gov.uk/>

If you require further advice on this matter, please e-mail explosives.planning@hse.gov.uk

Yours faithfully,

Pp C. Doran

Nicholas A. Harney
Regulatory Compliance Officer
Chemicals Explosive and Microbiological Division (CEMHD Unit 7C)