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Tel: 0300 470 1234
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Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: A417 Missing Link, request for comments from the Applicant.

Thank you for the recent request, made on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport, for an update on outstanding Protective Provisions. National Highways are able to provide the following update:

The Applicant provided STW with a suggested approach to the protection of its assets through the protective provisions in the draft DCO (dDCO) and, if needed, a separate agreement, prior to the submission of the application for the scheme. The Applicant considers that the protective provisions in favour of electricity, gas, water and sewerage undertakers in Part 1 of Schedule 8 to the dDCO are adequate for the protection of STW's apparatus. These are in the usual form included in other National Highways DCO for that purpose.

The Applicant notes that STW submitted at Deadline 9 that it had no objection "in principle" to the works in respect of its assets. It was also "content that the protective provisions within the draft DCO provide a reasonable degree of protection". It did point to some "residual concerns that can mostly be managed under the current form of protective provisions provided that the Applicant's approach and proposed works complies with and has regard to all relevant standards, policies and regulatory requirements governing STW's asset" (REP9-030). The provisions of Part 1 of Schedule 8, and in particular paragraphs 9(2) and 9(3), require the Applicant to comply with the undertaker's reasonable requirements (REP9-005), which in the Applicant's view addresses those concerns.

The Applicant understands that all technical matters relating to the diversion of STW's assets have been agreed.

The Applicant has been in discussion with STW to identify what further assurances can be provided, beyond those set out within the dDCO. It is not expected that those discussions will lead to any drafting changes to be requested to the protective provisions on the face of the dDCO. The Applicant therefore considers the protective provisions

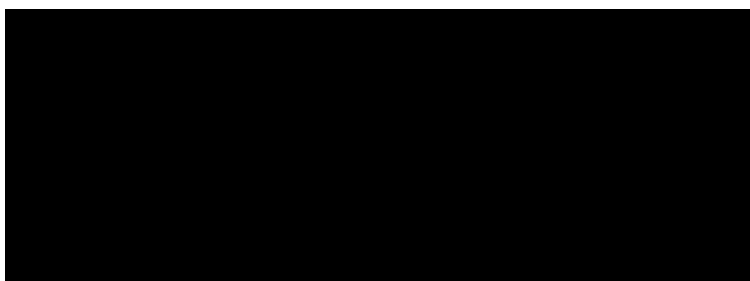
within the dDCO to be adequate, and respectfully invites the Secretary of State to make the DCO in the form it was last considered during examination.

Separately, the Applicant and STW have agreed the following joint statement:

The Applicant and STW have been in discussion regarding the existing protective provisions set out in Part 1 of Schedule 8 to the draft DCO. The parties remain in discussion regarding potential arrangements that if put in place will enable STW to confirm that sufficient protection has been put in place for STW's assets. Final confirmation as to whether such arrangements can be concluded acceptable to both parties will be provided in the next 14 days.

I trust this is helpful in assisting the Secretary of State in their decision making.

Kind regards,



Michael Goddard
Project Director – A417 Missing Link