

Wardell Armstrong

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Our ref: TR/CA11635/Condition 66/01

Date: 21st March 2022

Your ref:

The Mineral Planning Department
Planning Division
The Quays
Brunel Way
Baglan Energy Park
Neath
SA11 2GG.

Dear Sir,

**RE: ABERPERGWM COLLIERY PLANNING PERMISSION REF P2014/0729
DISCHARGE OF CONDITION 66:**

Wardell Armstrong LLP has been commissioned by Energybuild Limited to provide guidance on soil handling and to prepare a Scheme to be submitted to the Local Planning Authority to discharge Condition 66 of planning permission Ref. P2014/0729 regarding on-site topsoil and subsoil storage handling at Aberpergwn Mine.

We trust the appended Scheme is sufficient to discharge Condition 66. However, if further clarification is required, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

for Wardell Armstrong LLP

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'tregensburg', with a horizontal line drawn through it.

Dr. TH Regensburg

Principal Soil and Peat Scientist

tregensburg@wardell-armstrong.com



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PROPOSED SCHEME TO DISCHARGE CONDITION 66:

CONDITION 66

Topsoil and subsoil storage mounds that will remain in situ for more than 3 months shall be seeded and managed in accordance with a scheme submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority within 24 months of the date of commencement of underground operations at the mine as notified in accordance with condition 3 above.

Reason: To protect mounds from erosion and prevent the build-up of weeds in the soil

BACKGROUND

This document sets out the guidelines to be followed by Energybuild Limited in order to comply with the requirements of Condition 66 set out in the revised planning permission issued 24 November 2021¹.

VEGETATION COVER OF SPOIL TIPS

It is important for a vegetation cover to be established as soon as possible and in sufficient time before the growing season ends to protect the soil surface and minimise slaking of soil profile, attenuate surface runoff and to initiate soil recovery processes.

Revegetation of the soil mounds should be undertaken progressively as soon as the replacement operations and final cultivations are completed to avoid the soil surface remaining bare and unprotected by vegetation over the winter with the high risk of loss of soil from wind and water erosion, and in summer prone to wind erosion and the infestation by weeds.

- 2.1.3 Where the earlier than expected deterioration of weather conditions prevent proper preparation the sowing of a temporary (sacrificial) quickly establishing grass cover may be an option. In unavoidable circumstances, alternative seeding methods can be deployed, including hydro-seeding and aerial seeding.
- 2.1.4 Measures to divert water away from the stockpile may be required to prevent water ponding in the soil storage area. Stockpiles are to be inspected regularly and any

¹ Decision notice on revised planning permission ref no P2014/0729, given out by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, acting as the Local Planning Authority, at 24 November 2021.



potential events that may reduce the quality of the stored soil or its suitability for reuse, such as flooding, promptly mitigated.

- 2.1.5 The duration of storage should be minimised as far as is practicable. Stockpiles that are to be in place for longer than six months require established of a vegetation cover to protect the soil against erosion, minimise nutrient loss, and maintain its biological activity.
- 2.1.6 Stockpiles need to be seeded with a tailored seed mixture appropriate to soil types present in the stockpile and site conditions. For instance, if stabilising of banks and low maintenance is priority, a simple grass mix² may suffice that tolerates low nutrient and drought conditions. A meadow mix might be good to add to biodiversity, in which case a mixture of wildflowers and wild grasses³ may suffice.

² Landscaping Grass Seed Mixtures | Germinal Amenity.

³ Emorsgate Seeds – available at <https://wildseed.co.uk>.