

**Statement in relation to the A5WTC Project Team's consideration of 'Technical Flood Risk Guidance in relation to Allowances for Climate Change in Northern Ireland'**

The above technical guidance document was published on the DfI website on 25 February 2019.

In terms of programme, the A5WTC project team had scheduled publication of the Environmental Statement Addendum (ESA 2019) for 26 March 2019.

In light of the publication of the new Guidance I arranged a meeting with DfI Water and Drainage Policy Division representatives to discuss the new document and in particular to clarify the transitional arrangements that applied to its implementation.

This meeting was held on 12 March 2019 and while the minutes were not finalised, draft minutes are available and attached. It was attended by Peter Edwards, Orla Fitzpatrick and Chris Smylie of WSP and myself on behalf of the A5WTC Project Team.

When weighed against the fact that some of the relevant documents for ESA consultation had already gone to print and any change would therefore delay the project (based on the need for remodelling work), thereby adding significantly to the cost, Mr Edwards and I concluded from the meeting that implementation of the new Guidance was not an immediate requirement for the A5WTC and would not therefore delay the ESA 2019 publication date of 26 March 2019.

The matter was parked at that point until the Project Team considered it again through development of the Flood Risk Assessment Theme Report later in the year when more thought was given as to how the new Guidance could be implemented on the scheme.

This thought process was developed and formulated through drafts of the Flood Risk Assessment Theme Report.

Seamus Keenan

Project Sponsor

DfI Roads

21 February 2020

# MEETING NOTES

# DRAFT

<b>JOB TITLE</b>	A5 Western Transport Corridor
<b>SUBJECT</b>	New Climate Change Guidance 'Technical Flood Risk Guidance in relation to Allowances for Climate Change in Northern Ireland'
<b>DATE</b>	12 March 2019
<b>VENUE</b>	Dfl Rivers, 44 Seagoe Industrial Estate, Craigavon
<b>PRESENT</b>	S Keenan (Dfl WD); [REDACTED] & [REDACTED] (both Dfl Rivers); O Fitzpatrick, C Sm& P Edwards (all WSP)
<b>APOLOGIES</b>	None
<b>DISTRIBUTION</b>	As above plus:

MATTERS ARISING	ACTION
<b>1.0 AIM OF MEETING</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) To update Dfl rivers on the current status of the scheme and the immediate programme to get Phase 1A under construction; and</li> <li>b) To agree the way forward with Dfl Rivers regarding the new guidance on climate change (CC).</li> </ul>	
<b>2.0 PROJECT UPDATE</b>	
2.1 SK provided a summary of the scheme progress since November 2018 and the programme going forward, namely:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Dfl request the judge to quash the 2017 Orders;</li> <li>– New Act introduced to give powers to civil servants for a limited period;</li> <li>– Decision to prepare ES Addendum to cover:-               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– New construction phasing;</li> <li>– Unauthorised quarrying effects;</li> <li>– Updated Cumulative Effects; and</li> <li>– Review of base data and legislation, etc (inc CC).</li> </ul> </li> <li>– ESA publication in March 2019 for 6 weeks consultation;</li> <li>– Update HRA reports and publish for consultation at same time;</li> <li>– The further programme is dependent upon the number and subject matter of submissions received.</li> </ul>	
<b>3.0 SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS</b>	
3.1	As A5WTC ES and design has been prepared under the EIA 2011 Regulations, the scheme comes under the transitional regulations in the new Dfl Guidelines.
3.2	Dfl Rivers definition of the transitional arrangements (page 4 of the new guidance document) is that they can be applied at any stage of a project if the criteria met. [REDACTED] confirmed that the reference to 'investment decision' was not a reference to a formal decision made by a Minister or senior civil servant to proceed with a scheme. <p>[REDACTED] stressed that the new document, while available publicly, was essentially an internal 'guidance' document.</p>
3.3	Fundamental change in CC approach is that CC is now to be applied on top of the freeboard rather than within it.

## MEETING NOTES

### MATTERS ARISING

### ACTION

3.4	LAs looking to adopt 1% AEP + CC as planning control. Each LA to define the flood plain limits and approach – could be different for each LA. PPS15 will cease to exist as LAs adopt the Area Plans and become the flood authority.	
3.5	Future planning responses from DfI Rivers will report on whether sites affected by 1%AEP flood model but will also advise regarding the 1%AEP + CC until policy is defined.	