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Date: 22 May 2018

By email: info@slpproject.co.uk

Dear Jon

Southampton to London Pipeline Project - Farmer and Landowner Engagement

Thank you for meeting with the NFU on the 16th April last month. We found it extremely valuable to meet with you and colleagues and to be provided with an update on the project.

As described, we understand that you are now reviewing responses to the Corridor Consultation and will be announcing your preferred option towards the end of May. At this point you will commence more detailed engagement with landowners and occupiers alongside ground investigations and other survey work within the option corridor. This will inform the statutory consultation, which is planned to take place in the autumn and alongside this you will look to secure easement options and voluntary agreements with landowners by the end of the year.

As recommended at the meeting, we think it would be advantageous for all concerned if you are able to secure feedback from landowners and occupiers substantially in advance of the statutory consultation. There needs to be sufficient opportunity to resolve any constraints they identify, before the design is so advanced that any changes become costly and difficult to achieve.

We're happy to take you up on the offer to provide comment on the options agreements and other agreement documents, recognising that it would be to everyone's advantage to help resolve matters swiftly within the very compressed programme you are working to.

Finally as highlighted at the meeting, it's important to note that agricultural policy in the UK is currently in the process of significant change as we exit from the European Union. We're now aware that direct payments to farmers will be phased out over broadly the same time period as the pipeline project. This means that many of the landowners and occupiers affected by the scheme are going to be faced with significant decisions regarding the long term future of their businesses.

It is important for the project team to be mindful of this situation by avoiding any unnecessary disruption to farm businesses during this critical time. From this perspective it may be advisable to consider appointing a dedicated agricultural liaison officer at an early stage to provide a consistent point of contact throughout the project.

We are very happy to work with you to help enable a smooth landowner consultation process. To assist with this we suggest it would be useful to arrange a further meeting with ourselves and our member's agents who already meet regularly at our Winchester office.

They are due to meet again in early August, which seems like an appropriate time to arrange a further update meeting? Please let me know you are in agreement and we'll follow this up with Kai and the rest of the engagement team.

Thanks again for a useful introductory meeting and we look forward to working with you over the coming months.

With kind regards

T.Ormesher

Tom Ormesher

NFU SE Environment and Land Use Adviser