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WATERCOURSES.

London Borough of Ealing
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W5 2HL

For the attention of Mr David Rumsey

10 May 2007

Our ref WHADM/9.1/63416

Your ref

Dear Mr Rumsey

**Inspection of Flood Defence Assets
DEFRA High Level Target 2**

You are no doubt aware of the obligations under DEFRA High Level Target 2, that all operating authorities should “A) Record on the National Flood & Coastal Defence Database (NFCDD) all base information relating to flood and coastal defences in accordance with Environment Agency (EA) specifications; B) Record on the NFCDD information on new or altered flood and coastal defences in accordance with EA specifications; C) Record on the NFCDD the results of inspections of watercourses and flood and coastal defence assets in accordance with EA specifications and D) Record on the NFCDD the results of inspections of privately owned flood and coastal defence assets in accordance with EA specifications.”

You may have seen the article in the Spring 2007 edition of the magazine ‘The ADA Gazette’, reinforcing this requirement. A copy of the article is attached for your reference.

We would like to offer our services in assisting you to achieve this target. Over the last eight years, we have worked in conjunction with the EA, Thames NE Region, in populating the NFCDD. During this time, we have located, identified and carried out inspections of the assets on watercourses for which the Agency is responsible in this area, and input the information collected, into the database. We feel that we could perform similar tasks for yourselves. Our operatives are experienced in this type of work, have a good local knowledge of the area, and are trained to Environment Agency standards, both in Flood Defence Asset Condition Assessment (T98) and in the use of NFCDD at Power User level.

Should you wish to discuss this further, or if you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the writer at the above address.

If there are any other matters in which you feel we can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dave Gillies', written in a cursive style.

Dave Gillies
Asset Inspection Team Leader
gilliesdr@halcrow.com
Direct dial 01992 707114
Encl.

Inspection of flood defences and watercourses

From Brian Empson, Environment Agency

The UK Government requires the Environment Agency, Internal Drainage Boards and Local Authorities to carry out regular inspections of flood defences and watercourses. The Environment Agency has introduced a risk-based programme of inspections, which takes account of the probability and consequences of failure to determine frequencies of inspections.

Inspecting and checking flood defences and watercourses help us to understand how they are currently performing and the likely rate of future deterioration. A visual inspection is the simplest form of assessment and is widely used for monitoring asset conditions.

A new Condition Assessment Manual is being introduced to assist staff to carry out the necessary visual inspections. There are five condition grades ranging from very good to very poor. The manual covers a wider range of 'assets' from channels, culverts and weed screens, weirs, outfalls, embankments, revetments to beaches, dunes etc.

The manual will be made available for Internal Drainage Boards in March 2007. Training of key staff can be arranged through the Environment Agency.

ADA Chief executive and ICE Vice President Jean Venables meets Tony Blair and Ian Pearson at Launch of the Olympics 2012 Sustainable Development Strategy

Jean Venables, ADA's Chief Executive and Vice President, attended an Roundtable event with Prime Minister Tony Blair on 23 January at 10 Downing Street at which the Olympics 2012 Sustainable Development Strategy was launched.

The Prime Minister hosted the meeting with representatives from the Olympic family and leading figures from the construction, environmental and sustainability sectors. Attendees included London Mayor Ken Livingstone, Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport Tessa Jowell MP, and Minister of State at Defra, Ian Pearson, who has IDBs in his remit. Jean was there in her capacity as Vice President of the Institution of Civil Engineers, where one of her responsibilities is liaison between the ICE and the Olympics.

The purpose of the roundtable event was:

- to mark 2012 days to go before the start of the Games and how the Games can be a catalyst for change;
- to discuss the Strategy and ODA's approach to the sustainable construction of the venues and infrastructure for the Games;
- to discuss how the Games can set new sustainability standards within the construction sector, both in design and delivery

One notable requirement within the Strategy was a requirement to use CEEQUAL on the 2012 infrastructure – see article on CEEQUAL's progress in this Gazette.

Pollution Control Solutions

Addressing the Water Framework Directive

The imminent Water Framework Directive, which is demanding new environmental legislation to enhance water quality, will require improved policies on construction projects to control pollution from suspended material in surface water.



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