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Our Ref.: TWA 2/2/50
Your Ref.: VSU-VDFTTWA-STNI-V047-
LET-ENV-0001&2

14 SEPTEMBER 2006

Dear Mr Street,

**TRANSPORT AND WORKS ACT 1992
TRANSPORT AND WORKS (APPLICATIONS AND OBJECTIONS PROCEDURE)
(ENGLAND AND WALES) RULES 2006
VICTORIA STATION UPGRADE ("VSU") SCHEME – SCOPE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
STATEMENT**

1. I refer to your letter of 21 July requesting a scoping opinion under rule 8 of the above Rules.
2. You enclosed with your letter an Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") Scoping Report dated July 2006 describing the scope of the information that London Underground Limited intend to provide in the Environmental Statement ("ES") for the VSU scheme. You subsequently wrote on 7 August enclosing a revised EIA Scoping Report dated August 2006 which corrected errors in Figs.2 and 3 in the July version. We note that copies of the revised report were sent to all those who were sent copies of the original version and it is the revised report, therefore, that is referred to in this letter as "the Scoping Report".
3. We have considered your request for an opinion on the proposed content of the ES in accordance with rule 8 of the above Rules. In formulating this scoping opinion, we have consulted Westminster City Council, the Greater London Authority, the Environment Agency, the Countryside Agency, English Nature and English Heritage.

Scoping Opinion

4. The Secretary of State considers that the environmental issues identified in the Scoping Report are properly ones that should be addressed in the ES to accompany the proposed application for a Transport and Works Act Order for the VSU scheme. In addition, it is considered that the matters below should also be addressed in the ES.

5. Please note that this scoping opinion is given without prejudice to our consideration of any such Order application which may be made. The giving of the opinion implies no view on the Department's part about the merits or otherwise of the VSU scheme.

Sustainable development

6. The ES should consider and assess sustainable development issues in order to demonstrate the interrelationship of the factors which are to be individually assessed.

Climatic factors

7. The ES should include consideration of the impacts of the scheme on climatic factors.

Cumulative environmental effects

8. In section 4.3 of the Scoping Report a number of projects are identified as requiring inclusion in the consideration of cumulative effects while others are considered not to be appropriate for inclusion. It is recommended, however, that the projects to form part of the cumulative assessment should be kept under review as circumstances and programme timescales may be subject to change. For example, the Scoping Report concludes that neither the Victoria Interchange Programme nor the separate scheme to upgrade the District and Circle Line station should be included in the VSU ES. Although this may be currently acceptable in the light of existing forecasts, if the VSU programme is delayed or either of the other two schemes is brought forward for any reason, it may be that a greater level of assessment of cumulative impacts is required.

Noise and Vibration

9. In section G of Appendix A to the Scoping Report, some key receptors are identified as being potentially sensitive to elevated levels of noise and vibration, including some residences in close proximity to the VSU. The residential properties at Allington Court are not specifically mentioned but should be included in the relevant effects assessment.

10. It is noted that, in section G of Table 2: "EIA Scoping of Issues", operational vibration impacts have been 'scoped in' because of potential impacts from plant and equipment. However, in section G of Appendix A, it is stated that these impacts are 'scoped out' on the grounds that no vibration generating activities are anticipated in connection with the operation of the VSU. This contradiction needs to be resolved. Unless it can be demonstrated that there would be no significant noise and vibration impacts from the operation of the VSU scheme, for example, from the operation of the new escalators, the ES should address this issue.

11. It is further noted from section G of Table 2 that the impacts of vibration from the construction works are 'scoped in' but the entry for this issue in the "positive/negative" column is "not applicable". This conclusion should be substantiated in the ES.

Groundwater and flood risk

12. The proposed assessments described in section K of Appendix A should include consideration of any proposals by Thames Water or the Environment Agency for dealing with groundwater and flood risk issues.

13. It is noted from section K of Table 2 that the impacts on groundwater from operational activities and the impact on surface waters are 'scoped in' but the entries for these issues in the "positive/negative" column are "not applicable". This conclusion should be substantiated in the ES.

Contaminated land

14. In section E of Table 2, impact (ii) relates, presumably, to construction activity, despite the relevant column being left blank. The ES should clarify the position.

Traffic and Transport

15. In section I of Table 2, no impacts on traffic during operation are indicated. Unless it can be shown that there would be no significant impacts on traffic resulting from the servicing requirements of the upgraded station, for example, deliveries and waste removal, the ES should address this issue.

Community and Socio-Economics

16. In section 4.2.5 of the Scoping Report, it is stated that there are no major community facilities (hospitals, schools etc) in the immediate vicinity. It should be noted, however, that there are two schools in the immediate area: St Vincent Primary School and Westminster Cathedral Choir School. The ES should take account of any effects on these receptors.

Other comments

17. Section 1.2 of the Scoping Report refers to the Westminster City Council *Revised* Unitary Development Plan. This should be referred to as the 'Replacement' and not the 'Revised' UDP.

18. The City Planning Group of Westminster City Council believe that there was a proposal to employ CEEQUAL (Civil Engineering Quality Assessment) to assess the project for its environmental excellence and have asked whether such an assessment would be integrated with or contribute to the EIA process. This would seem appropriate.

Distribution

19. Copies of this letter are being sent to those named in paragraph 3 of this letter.

Yours sincerely,



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Our Ref.: TWA 2/2/50
Your Ref.: VDFT1-VSU-V047-LET-0002

24 SEPTEMBER 2007

Dear Mr Street,

**TRANSPORT AND WORKS ACT 1992 (TWA)
TRANSPORT AND WORKS (APPLICATIONS AND OBJECTIONS PROCEDURE)
(ENGLAND AND WALES) RULES 2006
VICTORIA STATION UPGRADE ("VSU") SCHEME – SCOPE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
STATEMENT**

I refer to your letter of 19 September.

We have noted that paragraph 1.1.2 of the revised scoping report (July 2007) says that the content of the previous report (August 2006) has been altered as a result of, inter alia, scoping opinion comments by key consultees. We assume this includes the scoping opinion issued on 14 September 2006 under rule 8 of the above-mentioned Rules.

You are correct in your assumption that we have no comments on the revised scoping report.

We note your intention to submit a TWA application on 23 November 2007 and look forward to receiving it, preceded, of course, by the pre-application documents required in accordance with rule 5.

Yours sincerely



Peter Savage