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JET WASHING - De Minimis Exemption

In reference to our planning submission ref: H06-0472-24 we would like to apply for a 'De Minimus Exemption' as recommended by the local council for the 'Jet Washing' which takes place on the site at Blazegate, Gedney by my company *ASTECH Car Detailing & Sales Ltd*.

I would firstly like to take this opportunity to explain the actual form and usage of the 'Jet Washing' which takes place on the site as I feel that this usage is being portrayed as an 'on the side of a road car washing facility' that has dozens of cars go through it daily. This is not the case with my company. *ASTECH Car Detailing & Sales Ltd* offers 'Specialist Used Car Sales & Professional Car Detailing'. We of course do use a jet wash in the initial preparation stages of the works conducted on the site however this activity is very minimum and in terms of time scale and frequency is very little. We have included in the planning application that the jet wash will be used approximately twice a week to wash the cars we have in to work on. This is an average figure and sometimes is less maybe once or not even being used at all but then in other busier weeks it may be used 3 times. The extent of the jet washing on the site generally consists of an initial pre rinse, then a snow foam applied pre wash and then finally a rinse off after washing. The time the jet wash is actually active and in operation is approximately 2 mins for a pre rinse, approximately a minute for the snow foam application and then approximately a further 2 minutes to rinse down the vehicle post washing. This is a very standard procedure in all forms of vehicle washing. So, in total the jet washer is being used for approximately 5 minutes in total per vehicle. The whole car washing process obviously takes a little bit longer which includes a full vehicle hand wash and wheels hand wash and scrub down etc. So as a total duration of a working week the jet wash could be actively used for an average of 10 minutes. As a percentage of the entire works involved and undertaken by *ASTECH* this is very little. We specialize in ceramic coatings and machine polishing vehicles which is all undertaken inside the unit itself. Once the vehicle has received its initial vehicle wash it is the taken inside where the remainder of the works takes place i.e. ceramic coatings and machine polishing. To justify the usage of the jet wash in terms of a typical job, a full ceramic coating of a vehicle takes 3 full days or around 24 hours. A full vehicle machine polish takes around 2 days or around 16 hours. So, you can see that for a typical working week where there would be possibly 2 vehicles in for say a ceramic coating and then another for a machine polish only, then the jet washer will be used for both vehicles in the initial prep stages but in total used for approximately 10 minutes over a 40-hour working week. Therefore a 10-minute usage over a total of 2,400 minutes.

To address the chemical usage included whilst using the jet washer, we have informed the EA that all chemicals used externally are readily available products which are used similarly to a domestic car washing activity. We only use chemicals externally for vehicle washing which are non-acidic and PH neutral products. Our usual product used for shampoo is 'Meguairs Ultimate Wash 'N' Wax' and our usual pre wash snow foam product is 'Autoglym Polar Blast'. These products are PH neutral and easily available to the public. The amount of product used for each car wash is as the recommended manufactures details. For the shampoo, we will use approx 30 ml per 4 litres of water for a wash bucket used for the external paintwork of a vehicle and we also use another bucket with the same dilution for the alloy wheels. For the pre wash snow foam we would use approx 100ml product to 500ml water in a snow foam lance.

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As per our application we have specified that all vehicle washing is performed in the external compound are highlighted on the submitted plans. This compound area has a fall in the yard concrete to an existing soakaway pit. This soakaway pit has be actively used for over 40 years with its initial usage being a drainage area from the pig shelter adjacent (ie urine collection area). More recently it has been used as a wash down area and yard drainage pit *by 'Ian Brown Electrical Engineers Ltd'* for over 30 years. Even more recently it has been used by *'Camper Revampers'* as a vehicle wash down collection pit for the last 4 years prior to my tenancy. Therefore, my usage is by no means increasing any risk and if anything, most likely a decrease in its usage over past years. *'Ian Brown Electrical Engineers Ltd'* in their peak had 12 vehicles which were washed on a regular basis on site. They are now down to just 2 active vehicles which are only occasionally washed on site.

Please accept the above as our application for the 'De Minimus Exemption' for the use of jet washing and discharge of contaminated wastewater. We feel that the usage of the jet wash is so small in quantity and concentration of chemicals used that they only pose an extremely low risk of polluting groundwater if any at all with no danger of any future deterioration in groundwater quality over time. If the council or EA would like any further information then please feel free to contact either Aaron Shepherd or Ian Brown on the below contact details.

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