
Gate three query process

Strategic solution(s)	SESRO
Query number	SER016
Date sent to company	03/10/2025
Response due by	07/10/2025

Query

Supporting Document A1 sets out the basis of design. Please confirm the embankment slopes design currently proposed for SESRO and explain the rationale for any changes since Gate 2.

Solution owner response

Table 2-1 of supporting document A1 summarises design changes from Gate 2, with the first row relating to the reservoir. The table states: Reservoir shape, embankment heights and borrow pit profile remain similar to gate two. The table goes on to explain the changes in embankment design since Gate 2.

Information shared in the Summer 2024 public consultation included indicative sections of the embankment, which show that the slopes of embankment would vary both at different levels of the embankment and between the inner and outer face. The design allows for landscape fill to be placed on the outer face of the structural embankment to create variations in slope.

The gate 3 design assumed an average slope of 1:6 (vertical: horizontal) on the inner face of the embankment and 1:7.5 (vertical: horizontal) on the outer face of the structural embankment; however, as indicated above the design assumed that the finished embankment slope on the outer face would vary and have a slacker gradient than the structural embankment.

It is noted that the project continues to investigate the ground conditions at the SESRO site and the final embankment slopes will not be determined until the detailed design stage, so the Gate 3 design sought to provide a reasonable representation of the final design based on information available at the time. Ongoing work in preparation for environmental assessment and DCO is considering new information gained from the Clay Compaction Trial at the site and other emerging data, to present a design with appropriate limits of deviation for the detailed design of the embankments.

Date of response to RAPID	07/10/2025
Strategic solution contact / responsible person	