

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT
BY DEPUTY G.C.L. BAUDAINS OF ST. CLEMENT
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON MONDAY 30th JUNE 2014**

Question

Has the Environment Department been consulted on whether the JEC will be using lubricant to assist drawing their new French link cables through the conduit they have laid and, if so, can he assure members that this lubricant is biodegradable and will not adversely affect wells or boreholes if it should seep into the ground?

Answer

The Environment Department has been widely consulted on the Normandie 3 Submarine Cable project but not specifically on the type of lubricant used to facilitate the pull-through of the power cables through the ducts. The assessment of its use has been completed by Jersey Electricity and its contractor in accordance with its own Health, Safety and Environmental Policy.

The lubricant is Techlube Multi Cable Lubricant (product code: 10698A). It is used worldwide by many companies for such purposes and is water based biodegradable and non-toxic with very low concentrations of lubricating oil and gelling agents. Very small volumes of the lubricant are used. Even with the small volumes in use, almost all of it is held within the duct (which is a closed pipe) or contained at the entrance or exit of the duct.

Under the European Union REACH and other applicable Directives the lubricant is not classified as hazardous and does not adversely affect the water table.