

**CRABBE EXPLOSIVES MAGAZINES, ST. MARY:
APPROVAL OF DRAWINGS**

**Lodged au Greffe on 3rd February 1998
by the Defence Committee**



STATES OF JERSEY

STATES GREFFE

PROPOSITION

THE STATES are asked to decide whether they are of opinion -

- (a) to approve drawings Nos. 706-06/11/12/21/22/31 and 32, showing the construction of new explosives magazines at Crabbé, St. Mary;
- (b) to authorise the Greffier of the States to sign the said drawings on behalf of the States.

DEFENCE COMMITTEE

- NOTES: 1. The Planning and Environment Committee granted development approval under permit No. 19307 on 27th October 1997.
2. The comments of the Finance and Economics Committee will follow.

Report

The Defence Committee has a statutory obligation under the Explosives (Jersey) Law 1970 to administer all elements of that Law with the exception of the storage of fireworks. That responsibility rests with the Connétables of the various parishes.

The Committee has two explosives magazines situated at Crabbé in the Parish of St. Mary, in which, historically, 15 tonnes of explosives have been stored. This quantity is considered to be adequate in terms of maintaining supplies to the local quarries and other engineering undertakings and to retain a small surplus in anticipation of imports being delayed by bad weather or other unforeseen circumstances.

The existing magazines were constructed and approved by the Inspector of Explosives in 1960 and it was at that time that the storage limit of 15 tonnes was determined. Since that time much has changed in the area with the increased number and use of the nearby shooting ranges, the development of Crabbé Farm and the creation of the coastal path, all of which have impacted upon the outside distances relating to the magazines.

In 1996 at the insistence of States' insurers the United Kingdom Health and Safety Principal Inspector (Explosives) was asked to inspect the facility to determine whether, if it were situated in the United Kingdom, he would licence its operation. In his subsequent report the Inspector stated that due to the number, proximity, and frequency of use of the nearby ranges, the residential use of Crabbé Farm and the proximity and use of the coastal path he would not licence the facility unless the current storage capacities were drastically reduced from 15 tonnes to 4.5 tonnes.

This recommendation was implemented at the earliest opportunity and currently the Island is functioning with a maximum storage capacity of 4.5 tonnes which, apart from causing a massive increase in product price to the quarries, is causing considerable difficulties in maintaining adequate supplies to keep the quarries and ultimately, the building and engineering trades, functioning. It has also necessitated a greatly increased frequency of importation which, logistically, created additional problems and risk factors.

To ensure an adequate supply of materials to the various users the Island should, ideally, store at least 15 tonnes but, despite every effort being made, it has been agreed, in consultation with the Health and Safety Principal Inspector (Explosives) that by constructing two additional magazines in the locations shown on the drawings the storage capacity can be safely set at 11 tonnes. This limit although adequate is not an ideal quantity, but it is one within which the Island can continue to operate.

The drawings for the proposed new magazines which are currently before the House have been prepared by Design Engineers from the Public Services Department and these have been discussed with the Health and Safety Inspector and meet the requisite criteria in respect of the statutory inside and outside distances. The siting of the proposed magazines has been achieved despite considerable difficulties created by the topography of the terrain in that area the combined effect of which has been to limit to this single location the siting of these new facilities.

The maintenance of an adequate supply of explosives is essential to the building, engineering, road making and repairing industries of the Island as well as the many specialist requirements which continue to arise with increasing frequency. All of these needs have to be met and, without the additional storage facilities subject of this proposition, that will not be possible.

The estimated cost of the project is £250,000 which it is proposed will be funded by way of a rechargeable account.