

# Permitting decisions

## Surrender

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We have decided to accept the surrender of the permit for Holmwood Wellsite operated by Europa Oil & Gas Limited.

The permit number is EPR/YP3735YK. This is the bespoke permit and the standard rules permit SR2015 No2 that was issued concurrently.

We are satisfied that the necessary measures have been taken to avoid any pollution risk and to return the site to a satisfactory state. We consider in reaching that decision we have taken into account all relevant considerations and legal requirements.

### Purpose of this document

This decision document provides a record of the decision making process. It summarises the decision making process in the decision checklist to show how all relevant factors have been taken in to account.

Unless the decision document specifies otherwise we have accepted the applicant's proposals.

Read the permitting decisions in conjunction with the environmental permit and the surrender notice. The introductory note summarises what the notice covers.

This surrender concerns the bespoke permit EPR/YP3735YK and the standard rules permit SR2015 No2 that was issued concurrently.

The applicant, Europa Oil & Gas Limited, has provided an application for the full surrender with supporting evidence that comprises:

- Document entitled 'Homwood Wellsite – Site Condition Report at Surrender', document number EOG-EPRA-HW-SCR-006-PS and dated November 2018.

The permitted activities did not begin operation as due to external factors, the decision was made not to commence with construction of the proposed Holmwood wellsite.

Following our review of the surrender application and supporting information we, the Environment Agency, are satisfied that the operator, has provided sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the site has been returned to a satisfactory state.

Further details are provided within the Site Condition Evaluation Template and it should be read in conjunction with this decision document.

## Decision checklist

| Aspect considered                               | Decision  |
|---|---|
| <b>Receipt of application</b>                   |   |
| Confidential information                        | A claim for commercial or industrial confidentiality has not been made.   |
| Identifying confidential information            | We have not identified information provided as part of the application that we consider to be confidential.<br><br>The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance on confidentiality.   |
| <b>The site</b>                                 |   |
| Pollution risk                                  | We are satisfied that the necessary measures have been taken to avoid a pollution risk resulting from the operation of the regulated facility.  |
| Satisfactory state                              | We are satisfied that the necessary measures have been taken to return the site of the regulated facility to a satisfactory state.<br><br>In coming to this decision we have had regard to the state of the site before the facility was put into operation.  |
| <b>Growth Duty</b>                              |   |
| Section 108 Deregulation Act 2015 – Growth duty | We have considered our duty to have regard to the desirability of promoting economic growth set out in section 108(1) of the Deregulation Act 2015 and the guidance issued under section 110 of that Act in deciding whether to grant this permit surrender.<br><br>Paragraph 1.3 of the guidance says:<br><br>“The primary role of regulators, in delivering regulation, is to achieve the regulatory outcomes for which they are responsible. For a number of regulators, these regulatory outcomes include an explicit reference to development or growth. The growth duty establishes economic growth as a factor that all specified regulators should have regard to, alongside the delivery of the protections set out in the relevant legislation.”<br><br>We have addressed the legislative requirements and environmental standards to be set for this operation in the body of the decision document above. The guidance is clear at paragraph 1.5 that the growth duty does not legitimise non-compliance and its purpose is not to achieve or pursue economic growth at the expense of necessary protections. |