

Environment Agency permitting decisions

Permit Variation

We have decided to issue the variation for Rochdale Waste Water Treatment Works, Sludge Treatment Facility operated by United Utilities Water Limited. This variation provides for the inclusion of a new odour control unit within the existing permitted installation boundary. The inclusion of this new unit will not introduce any new emission point to air.

The variation number is EPR/FP3638MU/V004

We consider in reaching that decision we have taken into account all relevant considerations and legal requirements and that the permit will ensure that the appropriate level of environmental protection is provided.

Purpose of this document

This decision document:

- explains how the application has been determined
- provides a record of the decision-making process
- shows how all relevant factors have been taken into account
- justifies the specific conditions in the permit other than those in our generic permit template.

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

Structure of this document

- Annex 1 the decision checklist

Annex 1: decision checklist

This document should be read in conjunction with the Duly Making checklist, the application and supporting information and permit/ notice.

Aspect considered	Justification / Detail	Criteria met Yes
Operator		
Control of the facility	We are satisfied that the applicant (now the operator) is the person who will have control over the operation of the facility after the grant of the permit. The decision was taken in accordance with EPR RGN 1 Understanding the meaning of operator.	✓
European Directives		
Applicable directives	All applicable European directives have been considered in the determination of the application.	✓
The site		
Biodiversity, Heritage, Landscape and Nature Conservation	<p>The application is within the relevant distance criteria of a site of heritage, landscape or nature conservation, and/or protected species or habitat .</p> <p>The inclusion and operation of this site based odour control unit is seen as an environmental improvement. The development was assessed and accepted prior to this application. As such it is considered that there will be no impact.</p> <p>We have not formally consulted on the application. The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance.</p>	✓
Environmental Risk Assessment and operating techniques		
Environmental risk	<p>We have reviewed the operator's assessment of the environmental risk from the facility.</p> <p>The operator's risk assessment is satisfactory.</p> <p>We believe that by the inclusion of this new odour abatement unit to the existing system it will provide additional benefit in reducing the potential impacts of odours produced by the permitted installation.</p>	✓

Aspect considered	Justification / Detail	Criteria met
		Yes
Operating techniques	<p>We have reviewed the techniques used by the operator and compared these with the relevant guidance notes.</p> <p>The main components of the odour control unit included: Catalytic iron filter; Activated carbon filter and variable speed fan units.</p> <p>This system is an additional form of abatement and as such it will be an environmental improvement. It is intended that the new odour control unit will utilise the existing emissions point to air.</p> <p>The proposed techniques for control are in line with the benchmark levels contained in the TGN and we consider them to represent appropriate techniques for the facility. The permit conditions ensure compliance with relevant BREFs and BAT Conclusions, and ELVs deliver compliance with BAT-AELs.</p>	✓
Operator Competence		
Environment management system	<p>There is no known reason to consider that the operator will not have the management systems to enable it to comply with the permit conditions. The decision was taken in accordance with RGN 5 on Operator Competence.</p>	✓
Relevant convictions	<p>The National Enforcement Database has been checked to ensure that all relevant convictions have been declared.</p> <p>Relevant convictions were found and declared in the application. A post conviction plan was submitted by the operator and assessed as satisfactory.</p> <p>The operator satisfies the criteria in RGN 5 on Operator Competence.</p>	✓
Financial provision	<p>There is no known reason to consider that the operator will not be financially able to comply with the permit conditions. The decision was taken in accordance with RGN 5 on Operator Competence.</p>	✓