

Environment Agency permitting decisions

Variation

We have decided to issue the variation for Pool Farm Poultry Unit operated by Mr Griffith P. Price and Mrs Jean D. Price (Trading as G.P and J.D Price & Son)

The variation number is EPR/KP3439UV/V003

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

- Key issues
- Annex 1 the decision checklist

Key Issues

Industrial Emissions Directive (IED)

The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 were made on the 20 February and came into force on 27 February. These Regulations transpose the requirements of the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED).

Amendments have been made to the conditions of this variation so that it now implements the requirements of the EU Directive on Industrial Emissions.

Groundwater and soil monitoring

As a result of the requirements of the Industrial Emissions Directive, all permits are now required to contain condition 3.1.3 condition relating to protection of soil, groundwater and groundwater monitoring. However, the Environment Agency's H5 Guidance states that it is only necessary for the operator to take samples of soil or groundwater and measure levels of contamination where there is evidence that there is, or could be existing contamination and:

- The environmental risk assessment has identified that the same contaminants are a particular hazard; or
- The environmental risk assessment has identified that the same contaminants are a hazard and the risk assessment has identified a possible pathway to land or groundwater.

H5 Guidance further states that it is not essential for the Operator to take samples of soil or groundwater and measure levels of contamination where:

- The environmental risk assessment identifies no hazards to land or groundwater; or
- Where the environmental risk assessment identifies only limited hazards to land and groundwater and there is no reason to believe that there could be historic contamination by those substances that present the hazard; or
- Where the environmental risk assessment identifies hazards to land and groundwater but there is evidence that there is no historic contamination by those substances that pose the hazard.

Variation and Consolidation

This variation authorises the following change:

This Variation permits the installation of one Biomass boiler (215kWh output) to provide heat to two rearing sheds; this system supplements the LPG heating system. There are currently Heat Exchangers in operation on site which this consolidation adds to the permit.

The consolidation comprises updating the whole of the original permit to a modern standard incorporating the changes implemented by the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 which transpose the requirements of IED.

Biomass boiler

The applicant is varying their permit to include one biomass boiler with a net rated thermal input of 215 kWh.

In line with the Environment Agency's May 2013 document "Biomass boilers on EPR Intensive Farms", an assessment has been undertaken to consider the proposed addition of the biomass boilers.

This guidance states that the Environment Agency has assessed the pollution risks and have concluded that air emissions from small biomass boilers are not likely to pose a significant risk to the environment or human health providing certain conditions are met. Therefore a quantitative assessment of air emissions will not be required where:

- the fuel will be derived from virgin timber, miscanthus or straw, and;
- the biomass boiler appliance and installation meets the technical criteria to be eligible for the Renewable Heat Incentive, and;
- the aggregate boiler net rated thermal input is:
 - A. less than 0.5MWth, or;
 - B. less than 1MWth where the stack height is greater than 1 metre above the roof level of adjacent buildings (where there are no adjacent buildings, the stack height must be a minimum of 3 metres above ground), and there are:
 - no Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Ramsar sites or Sites of Special Scientific Interest within 500 metres of the emission point(s);
 - no National Nature Reserves, Local Nature Reserves, ancient woodlands or local wildlife sites within 100 metres of the emission point(s), or;
 - C. less than 2MWth where, in addition to the above criteria for less than 1MWth boilers, there are:
 - no sensitive receptors within 150 metres of the emission point(s).

The biomass boiler meets the requirements of criteria A above, and is therefore considered not likely to pose a significant risk to the environment or human health and no further assessment is required.

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. Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) conditions have also been added. Please refer to the key issues section for more details.	✓
The site		
Extent of the site of the facility	The operator has provided a plan which we consider is satisfactory, showing the extent of the site of the facility. A plan is included in the permit and the operator is required to carry on the permitted activities within the site boundary.	✓
Site condition report	The operator has provided a description of the condition of the site extension. We consider this description is satisfactory. The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance on site condition reports and baseline reporting under IED– guidance and templates (H5). The Site Condition Report (SCR) dated (20 th July 2014) as part of the duly making process, The operator has chosen not to supply baseline data for any of the site and as such we will assume zero contamination. The main consideration for this variation was the extension of the Installation boundary due to the addition of a biomass boiler, with a net rated thermal input of 215 kWh. And associated fuel storage. There has not been any recorded pollution incidents on site.	

Aspect considered	Justification / Detail	Criteria met
		Yes
Environmental Risk Assessment and operating techniques		
Environmental risk	We have reviewed the operator's assessment of the environmental risk from the facility. The operator's risk assessment is satisfactory.	✓
Operating techniques	We have reviewed the techniques used by the operator and compared these with the relevant guidance notes. Where we consider there is a deficiency in the application improvement conditions have been imposed within the permit (refer to the next Section). The operating techniques are as follows: ➤ the fuel is derived from virgin timber and miscanthus. ➤ the biomass boiler appliance and it's installation meets the technical criteria to be eligible for the Renewable Heat Incentive. ➤ the stack is 1m or more higher than the apex of the adjacent buildings. The proposed techniques for priorities for control are in line with the benchmark levels contained in the SGN EPR6.09 and we consider them to represent appropriate techniques for the facility. Please refer to the key issues section for more details.	✓
The permit conditions		
Updating permit conditions during consolidation.	We have updated previous permit conditions to those in the new generic permit template as part of permit consolidation. The new conditions have the same meaning as those in the previous permit(s). The operator has agreed that the new conditions are acceptable.	✓
Raw materials	We have specified limits and controls on the use of raw materials and fuels. We have specified that only virgin timber (including wood chips and pellets), miscanthus or a combination of these. These materials are never to be mixed with, or replaced by, waste. Please refer to the key issues section for more details.	✓
Incorporating the application	We have specified that the applicant must operate the permit in accordance with descriptions in the application, including all additional information received as part of the	✓

Aspect considered	Justification / Detail	Criteria met
		Yes
	<p>determination process.</p> <p>These descriptions are specified in the Operating Techniques table in the permit and include techniques from the previous application.</p>	
Operator Competence		
Environment management system	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.	✓