

Environment Agency permitting decisions

Surrender

We have decided to accept the surrender of the permit for Durham Soft Drinks operated by Refresco Limited.

The permit number is EPR/EP3339SX.

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:

- explains how the operator's application has been determined
- provides a record of the decision-making process
- shows how all relevant factors have been taken into account

Structure of this document

- Key issues
- Annex 1 the decision checklist

Key issues of the decision

Background

The Installation is located at Belmont Industrial Estate, Belmont, Durham, DH1 1ST. The permit for the facility contained one listed activity - a Section 6.8A1 (d) (ii) activity – Treating and processing materials intended for the production of food products from vegetable raw materials at plant with a finished product capacity of more than 300 tonnes per day (average value on a quarterly basis). The site also had 3 directly associated activities:

- Pre-treatment system removing solids using settling chambers and PH is adjusted;
- Steam production and supply through the continuous use of gas boilers with an aggregated thermal input of 16.88MW; and
- Steam generating boiler units (3 units with a thermal input of 1MW each)

Decommissioning and Removal of Pollution Risk

Production ceased in February 2014. Since then, all cleaning chemicals, printing inks, juice related products, glycol, refrigerants, engineering oils, trade effluent and waste materials have been removed from site. All equipment or vessels remaining have all been inspected and confirmed as clean. All site records were maintained during the operation of the site. Site drains have been rinsed as part of the cleaning of site vessels and pipe work.

No buildings have been dismantled. The factory boilers mains Gas supply has been turned off. There are no potentially polluting systems left on site

There is a skip on site for any small quantities of non-hazardous materials so that these can be removed from site as required. No redundant packaging material or ingredients are left on site.

There has been no impact on the land as all transfers off site were managed by site personnel, with no recorded spillages or incidents. All effluent disposal systems were maintained during the decommissioning of the facility and we have confirmed that the decommissioning was undertaken successfully. A checklist with supporting documentation has been produced for every item of equipment and details when it was emptied, cleaned and disposed of or where it is currently located on site.

Acceptable State

We deem the site to be in an acceptable state to grant the surrender application made by the Operator. We have visited the site a number of times over the operation of the permit and confirm that the site has been operated in accordance with all permit conditions and in a way so as to avoid pollution of the environment. Our final site inspection confirms that the decommissioning has now been completed and all potential sources of pollution have been removed from the site, therefore the permit can be successfully surrendered.

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
The site		
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. In coming to this decision we have had regard to the state of the site before the facility was put into operation.	✓