

Environment Agency permitting decisions

Variation

We have decided to issue the variation to the permit for Basildon Waste Treatment Centre operated by Alpheus Environmental Limited.

The variation number is EPR/EP3838MK/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 of the decision

The operator has applied for a variation to the permit for the following:

- Update the permit to modern conditions;
- Consolidate the original permit and subsequent variations into one document;
- Include additional operating techniques for a new final effluent tank; and
- Increase the site boundary to accommodate the new final effluent tank;

In addition we have amended the scheduled activities in Table S1.1 as incorrect activity references were inserted under the previous variation which was undertaken to bring the site in line with the Industrial Emissions Directive. This is discussed further in Annex 1 of this document

The final effluent tank

Historically the Waste Treatment Centre has accepted final effluent, which is essentially clean water from Anglian Water via road tankers to be utilised in the waste treatment process. The variation application made by the operator will change this process to eliminate the use of road tankers. Instead the site will make a connection directly to Anglian Water and will accept the clean water (final effluent) via a pipeline and store the water originally being brought in by tankers, in a 44m³ tank which is situated on the site for this purpose.

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.	✓
The facility		
The regulated facility	<p>The extent/nature of the facilities taking place at the site required clarification.</p> <p>The permit was recently varied due to the introduction of the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) which involved updating the activity reference within Table S1.1 to a hazardous waste treatment activity under the following scheduled reference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 5.3A(1)(a)(x) – Disposal or recovery of hazardous waste in a facility with a capacity exceeding 10 tonnes per day involving one or more of the following activities— oil re-refining or other reuses of oil <p>However as the site recovers oil from other waste liquids/sludges by physical treatment for recovery off site but does not refine the oil, the listed activity should be as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> S5.3 A1 (a) (ii) Disposal or recovery of hazardous waste with a capacity exceeding 10 tonnes per day involving one or more of the following activities - physico-chemical treatment <p>Additionally as the site also undertakes temporary storage of hazardous wastes with a capacity exceeding 50 tonnes the site should have an additional activity as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> S5.6 A(1) (a) Temporary storage of hazardous waste with a total capacity exceeding 50 tonnes pending any of the activities listed in Sections 5.1, 	✓

Aspect considered	Justification / Detail	Criteria met
		Yes
	<p>5.2, 5.3</p> <p>The site also accepts non hazardous wastes as listed in Table S2.2 of the permit. These wastes are fed directly into the final blending tank where they undergo settlement before the separated liquid effluent is discharged to Anglian water for further treatment. Under the IED regulations settlement is a physical process, therefore this activity should be a scheduled activity as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S5.4 A(1) (a)(ii) – Disposal of non-hazardous waste with a capacity exceeding 50 tonnes per day involving one or more of the following activities – physico-chemical treatment 	
European Directives		
Applicable directives	All applicable European directives have been considered in the determination of the application.	✓
The site		
Extent of the site of the facility	<p>The operator has provided a plan which we consider is satisfactory, showing the extent of the site of the facility</p> <p>A plan is included in the permit and the operator is required to carry on the permitted activities within the site boundary.</p>	✓
Site condition report	<p>The operator has provided a description of the condition of the site.</p> <p>The operator submitted the original site condition report for the additional area of land to be included within the permitted facility. They have provided justification that the area of land to be included within the site boundary is a small piece of land adjacent to the current activities and there has not been any change in land use since the original site condition report was formulated therefore, it would be sufficient to provide a 'baseline' for the condition of the area of land to be included within the permit under this variation. We have assessed this justification and agree with the conclusions reached.</p> <p>We consider this description is satisfactory. The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance on site</p>	✓

Aspect considered	Justification / Detail	Criteria met
		Yes
	condition reports and baseline reporting under IED–guidance and templates (H5).	
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>We do not consider that this application will have any impact on the habitats within relevant distance of the site. While the operator has not proposed secondary containment of the 44m³ tank, the tank will be situated on grass and will contain final processed water from Anglian Water which is essentially clean water to be utilised in the treatment process. The site is laid out such that any spills of the final processed Anglian Water effluent would drain directly to ground. All oil storage areas are sufficiently bunded to ensure that any water from the final effluent tank which managed to overtop the bunds, would be captured within the bunded system and disposed of by processing it through the system.</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 proposes to increase the site boundary to incorporate an additional 44m³ tank which is currently outside of the permitted boundary. The tank will hold processed water from Anglian Water which will be utilised in the oil separation activity and within final blending tank to provide dilution to the effluent being discharged to sewer. The operator has not proposed any secondary containment for the tank, however as it will hold essentially 'clean' water, we do not consider secondary containment to be necessary as any failure of the tank will result in either the clean water discharging to ground, or the water will overtop the oil containment bunds, whereby it will be pumped out and introduced to the treatment process.</p> <p>The operator's risk assessment is satisfactory.</p>	✓
Operating techniques	We have reviewed the techniques used by the operator and compared these with the relevant guidance notes.	✓

Aspect considered	Justification / Detail	Criteria met
		Yes
	We have updated the Operating Techniques table S1.2 within the consolidated permit to include the installation operation and maintenance of the additional tank which will hold the Anglian Waste Water Effluent.	
The permit conditions		
Updating permit conditions during consolidation.	<p>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).</p> <p>The operator has agreed that the new conditions are acceptable.</p>	✓
Improvement conditions	We have reviewed the Improvement Conditions as part of this variation and have agreed that all improvement condition at the site have been completed. We have not introduced any additional improvement conditions as a result of this variation application.	✓
Incorporating the application	<p>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 determination process.</p> <p>These descriptions are specified in the Operating Techniques table in the permit.</p>	✓
Emission limits	<p>We have decided that emission limits should be set for the parameters listed in the permit.</p> <p>The original emission limits have not changed.</p>	✓
Monitoring	<p>We have decided that monitoring should be carried out for the parameters listed in the permit, using the methods detailed and to the frequencies specified.</p> <p>The original monitoring requirements have not changed.</p>	✓
Reporting	<p>We have specified reporting in the permit.</p> <p>The reporting requirements have changed with the introduction of a requirement to report how much water is being utilised within the process.</p>	✓
Operator Competence		

Aspect considered	Justification / Detail	Criteria met
		Yes
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.	✓
Technical competence	Technical competency is required for activities permitted. The operator is a member of an agreed scheme.	✓
Financial provision	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.	✓