

Environment Agency permitting decisions

Surrender

We have decided to accept the surrender of the permit for Laurel Farm operated by Free Range Chicken Limited.

The permit number is EPR/UP3334FQ.

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

Reasons for surrender

The original permit was issued to Free Range Chicken Limited. The installation was for rearing of poultry in a facility comprising of five buildings (two of which were not in use) with a capacity for 55,662 broiler places.

The operator has advised the Environment Agency that one of the three operational houses is being decommissioned and the capacity of the site will reduce to approximately 36,000 birds (which is below the permitting threshold).

Decommissioning and Removal of Pollution Risk

The Operator has confirmed in their site surrender report (SSR) that;

- all permitted activities have ceased;
- the pollution risk has been removed; and
- the condition of the land has not deteriorated during the lifetime of the permit.

The operator's surrender SCR shows that there has been no change in the condition of the land and that pollution prevention measures have worked during the life of the permit.

Site Inspection

The Environment Agency attended a surrender meeting and inspection at Laurel Farm Poultry Unit on 18/03/2014, and confirmed the following;

- There have been no pollution incidents at the site, either from the operator's records and knowledge, or reported to us via the incident phone number.
- The site is now operating with a capacity of 20,000 (2 x 10,000 capacity sheds).
- House 1 has been decommissioned. Feeding and drinking infrastructure remain as these are owned by the landlord (as are the sheds themselves). The last crop of birds left House 1 on 03/10/13. This was followed by a washdown and elements of the closure plan were implemented, allowing for the landlord's equipment, the remaining sheds still operating etc.).
- The condition of the land has not deteriorated during the lifetime of the permit (less than 2 years). Some of the site changes made have improved the condition of the land.

Therefore it was concluded that the Environment Agency have no objection to the site Permit being surrendered.

Conclusion

Based on our consideration of the application to surrender the permit, the Environment Agency is satisfied that the necessary measures to avoid pollution during the operation of the regulated facility were undertaken and that all potential polluting activities associated with the regulated operations have been removed. The Environment Agency therefore concludes that the pollution risk has been removed and that the measures put in place by the operator during the permit have protected the site from deterioration.

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		
Extent of the surrender application	The operator has provided a plan showing the extent of the site of the facility that is to be surrendered. We consider this plan to be satisfactory,.	✓
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.	✓