Environment Agency permitting decisions

Variation

We have decided to issue the variation for Granox Limited operated by Granox Limited.

The variation number is EPR/CP3230BE/V010

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

Emissions to air

The Operator submitted an air dispersion modelling report as part of the variation application. The predicted concentrations of specified pollutants have been compared to Air Quality Objectives (AQO). The Environment Agency has reviewed the results of the dispersion modelling which considered the emissions arising from normal operating conditions at the installation.

We consider that the four scenarios modelled are appropriate and provide a "worst-case" scenario with regards to maximum emissions from the installation. The pollutants considered in the assessment are those associated with combustion activities, namely nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide, particulates and volatile organic compounds. We are satisfied that there is no need to consider any other pollutants.

The results of the dispersion modelling carried out by the Operator showed that the process contribution (PC) and the predicted environment contribution (PEC) of NO_2, SO_2, CO, PM_{10} and VOCs do not exceed the respected air quality objectives at existing residential and ecological receptor locations considered in the assessment. Tables 1 and 2 show the maximum concentrations of nitrogen dioxide at the closest sensitive receptors.

Table 1 Maximum modelled nitrogen dioxide concentrations at closest human receptor (four scenarios)

Parameter	AQO μgm^{-3}	FBC two lines (PC) μgm^{-3} (existing)	FBC one line (PC) μgm^{-3}	FBC temporary chimney (PC) μgm^{-3}	FBC two lines (temporary & existing) (PC) μgm^{-3}
NO_2 annual	40	2.5	1.9	3.9	5.7
NO_2 short term	200	19	13	13	20

Table 1 Maximum modelled nitrogen dioxide concentrations at closest ecological receptor (four scenarios)

Parameter	AQO μgm^{-3}	FBC two lines (PC) μgm^{-3} (existing)	FBC one line (PC) μgm^{-3}	FBC temporary chimney (PC) μgm^{-3}	FBC two lines (temporary & existing) (PC) μgm^{-3}
NO_x annual	30	3.6	2.7	5.5	8.2

The Environment Agency assessed emissions from the fluidised bed combustors using the Aermod Screening Tool in order to obtain a more accurate prediction. Results from the Screening Tool showed that emissions of nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide, particulates and volatile organic compounds from the fluidised bed combustors are in the low risk category. We therefore consider that no further assessment is necessary. The emission limits set in the permit are considered adequate to ensure continued protection of human and ecological receptors within the vicinity of the installation.

The Operator reports that the existing flame ionisation detector (FID) will measure emissions from Stream B (existing stack). A second FID will be installed to monitor emissions from Stream A (temporary stack). We have included an Improvement Condition (IC1) to ensure that the Operator complies with this measure.

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		
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.	✓
Biodiversity, Heritage, Landscape and Nature Conservation	The application is within the relevant distance criteria of a site of heritage, landscape or nature conservation, and/or protected species or habitat. We have not formally consulted on the application. The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance.	✓
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. The assessment shows that, applying the conservative criteria in our guidance on Environmental Risk Assessment [or similar methodology supplied by the operator and reviewed by ourselves], all emissions may be categorised as environmentally insignificant.	✓
Operating techniques	We have reviewed the techniques used by the operator and compared these with the *EPR 1.01 – Combustion Activities and EPR 5.01 – The Incineration of Waste*. The proposed techniques/emission levels for priorities for control are in line	✓

Aspect considered	Justification / Detail	Criteria met Yes
	with the benchmark levels contained in the TGN and we consider them to represent appropriate techniques for the facility.	
The permit conditions		
Improvement conditions	Based on the information on the application, we consider that we need to impose improvement conditions. We have imposed Improvement Condition (IC1) to ensure that the appropriate measures (flame ionisation detector) are in place in order to comply with the emission limits and monitoring requirements set in the permit.	✓
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 determination process. These descriptions are specified in the Operating Techniques table in the permit.	✓
Emission limits	Emission limits have not changed.	✓
Monitoring	Monitoring requirements have not changed.	✓
Reporting	Reporting conditions have not changed.	✓
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.	✓
Relevant convictions	The National Enforcement Database has been checked to ensure that all relevant convictions have been declared. No relevant convictions were found. The operator satisfies the criteria in RGN 5 on Operator Competence.	✓
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. The financial provision arrangements satisfy the financial provisions criteria.	✓