

## **Environment Agency permitting decisions**

### **Variation**

We have decided to issue the variation for Northacre Resource Recovery Centre operated by Hills Waste Solutions Limited.

The permit number is EPR/LP3491EE.

The variation number is EPR/LP3491EE/V004.

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**

### **Description of variation changes**

This application was applied for and determined as a minor technical variation.

This variation authorises the increase in annual throughput capacity at the mechanical biological treatment (MBT) facility from 70,000 tonnes to 90,000 tonnes. The increased tonnages will be provided by the operators existing contracts accepting residual municipal waste.

### **Fire Prevention Plan (FPP)**

The Environment Agency are required to regulate certain activities, including waste activity facilities, to ensure the appropriate protection of the local community and environment. The Fire Prevention Plan (FPP) guidance, November 2016, provides advice to operators on storing combustible waste so that it reduces the risk of fires, or, in the event of a fire occurring, minimise the duration and impact. The guidance requires the operator to have an Environment Agency approved FPP in place. The FPP must meet minimum standards, set out in our guidance, or where there is deviation from these it must be fully justified and agreed by the Environment Agency.

The installation stores a mix of non-hazardous and hazardous waste pending recovery, these wastes are of a potential combustible nature. This variation is for the increase of waste accepted at the MBT and therefore increases the fire risk. Consequently, we requested that the operator submit an FPP, in line with our guidance, as part of the application.

We have reviewed the FPP and are satisfied that the appropriate measures will be in place to prevent waste fires, but that in the event that a fire did occur, the impact on the environment and people will be reduced. We, therefore, approve the FPP and consider it complies with the standards in our guidance.

## 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
<b>Consultation</b>		
Scope of consultation	<p>The consultation requirements were identified and implemented. The decision was taken in accordance with our Public Participation Statement and our Working Together Agreements.</p> <p>For this application no consultation was required.</p>	✓
<b>European Directives</b>		
Applicable directives	All applicable European directives have been considered in the determination of the application.	✓
<b>The site</b>		
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>The variation does not include any changes that could impact on ecological sites and we have not formally consulted on the application with Natural England. The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance.</p>	✓
<b>Environmental Risk Assessment and operating techniques</b>		
Environmental risk	There will be no increase in emissions as a result of this variation and consequently no increase in environmental risk.	✓
Operating techniques	<p>We have reviewed the techniques used by the operator and compared these with the relevant guidance notes.</p> <p>We are satisfied that the operating techniques proposed by the operator represent best available techniques (BAT). The incoming waste is handled and treated within one building which is operated under negative pressure and has quick opening/closing roller shutter doors.</p>	✓
<b>The permit conditions</b>		
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).	✓

Aspect considered	Justification / Detail	Criteria met
		Yes
	The operator has agreed that the new conditions are acceptable.	
Changes to the permit conditions	<p>The following permit conditions have changed as a result of this variation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Table S1.2 is amended to update operational techniques referred to in the application.</li> <li>• Table S2.2 is amended to increase the annual throughput at the MBT facility from 70,000 tonnes to 90,000 tonnes.</li> </ul>	✓
Emission limits	No emission limits have been added, amended or deleted as a result of this variation.	✓
Monitoring	Monitoring has not changed as a result of this variation.	✓
<b>Operator Competence</b>		
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 Regulatory Guidance Note (RGN) 5 on Operator Competence.	✓