Environment Agency permitting decisions

Bespoke Variation

We have decided to issue this minor variation for Melton Ross Lime Works operated by Singleton Birch Ltd.

The variation number is **EPR/BL8805IZ/V005**

The permit number is **EPR/BL8805IZ**

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

1. Variation summary

This variation is for the following changes:

- The installation boundary is increased to include a new area for quarrying;
- Paper sludge ash (PSA) will be used as a raw material to make a new product. The PSA will meet the requirements of the PSA quality protocol;

- A mining waste operation is added to the permit. Extractive lime wastes are used to backfill the excavation void. Lime wastes will only be stored for a short time period prior to use for restoration. Chalk waste is stored prior to restoration, but overburden rock is not classed as extractive waste (see the agreed extractive materials management statement, saved on EDRM under EMMS0508). It is not a mining waste facility, so the permit is for a mining waste operation. Application form C5 was for inert extractive wastes. The Applicant changed this to non inert non hazardous wastes in an e-mail dated 12/09/11.

2. Impact

The Applicant provided a Waste Management Plan to described how the mining waste operation will be operated. We are satisfied that risks from the operation will be minimised and insignificant. The operation has been carried out for many years. There are no water discharges. The site is also an installation for lime activities and has controls in place for dust emissions.

PSA will be used to make a new product. Lime is currently supplied as a soil stabiliser. Mixing PSA with the lime will be carried out to make an improved stabiliser. PSA will be delivered to a bunker within the graded lime plant, blended and then stored in a second bunker. The blending will be carried out within the current graded lime plant and is therefore enclosed. Blending of lime with other materials such as fly ash is already carried out in this plant.

3. Monitoring

The Operator has requested that particulate monitoring for hydrator and microlime stacks be removed, or reduced. This request was subsequently withdrawn. We agree that monitoring should not be changed. The emission points are abated and monitoring is required to assess the continuing effectiveness of the abatement.

4. OPRA and charging

The OPRA score has not changed. A fee for the mining waste operation is required. This is taken from chapter 3 of the charging scheme and is currently £970

5. 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
Consultation		
Scope of consultation	The consultation requirements were identified and implemented. The decision was taken in accordance with RGN 6 High Profile Sites, our Public Participation Statement and our Working Together Agreements. No consultation was required for this minor variation. The addition of the mining waste operation did not require consultation as it is an existing operation being added to the current permit.	✓
European Directives		
Applicable directives	All applicable European directives have been considered in the determination of the application; in particular: IPPC and EIA.	✓
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.	✓
Site condition report	The operator has provided a description of the condition of the site. We consider this description is satisfactory. The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance on site condition reports – guidance and templates (H5). The site condition report was submitted on the H5 template. It refers to other planning documents, including the Environmental Statement, that are saved onto our public register database, EDRM.	✓
Waste management plan	The operator has provided a waste management plan which we consider is satisfactory.	✓

Aspect considered	Justification / Detail	Criteria met
		Yes
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 . There are no changes in emissions due to this variation so no further assessment is required.	✓
Environmental Risk Assessment and operating techniques		
Environmental risk	We have reviewed the operator's assessment of the environmental risk from the facility. No change in emissions due to this variation so no further assessment required.	✓
EIA	In determining the application we have considered the Environmental Statement. We have also considered the planning permission and the committee report approving it.	✓
Operating techniques	We have reviewed the techniques used by the operator and compared these with the relevant guidance notes. Paper sludge ash will be used to make a new product. Lime is currently supplied as a soil stabiliser. Mixing PSA with the lime will be carried out to make an improved stabiliser. The blending will be carried out within the current graded lime plant and is therefore enclosed. The proposed techniques/ emission levels for priorities for control are in line with the benchmark levels contained in the lime TGN (EPR 3.01b) and 'how to comply' and we consider them to represent appropriate techniques for the facility.	✓
The permit conditions		
Odour and noise	No change in risk due to this variation.	✓
Raw materials	We have specified limits and controls on the use of raw materials and fuels. PSA and its use will be in line with the quality protocol for paper sludge ash. We have specified this in Table S2.1 (Raw materials and fuels) of 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 Table S1.2 (Operating Techniques) of the permit.	✓
Emission limits	No changes have been made to emission limits as a result of this variation.	✓

Aspect considered	Justification / Detail	Criteria met
		Yes
Monitoring	No changes as a result of this variation.	✓
Reporting	No changes as a result of this variation.	✓
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.	✓