

Environment Agency permitting decisions

Low impact installation

We have decided to grant the permit for Cobham Hydrogen Refuelling Station operated by ITM Power (Trading) Limited.

The permit number is EPR/XP3237DM

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

- Description of main features of the installation
- Annex 1 the decision checklist

Description of the main features of the installation

ITM Power (Trading) Limited will operate a hydrogen refuelling station under a Standard rules SR2009 No2 – Low Impact Part A Installation. The only inputs are water and outputs of the plant are hydrogen, oxygen and water. A release of water and oxygen occurs as part of the standard operation of the site. Mains water is purified, then undergoes electrolysis via an polyelectrolyte membrane to produce hydrogen. Oxygen is vented directly to the atmosphere. All hydrogen created on-site is stored on-site and used to fuel hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles (FCEVs).

The operator has provided evidence, which we have accepted, that they are able to satisfy the Low Impact Installation criteria as specified in the Environment Agency's Permitting application form (Part B1 – Standard Facilities Permit).

The electrochemical production of hydrogen is captured under Schedule 1, Part 2, Section 4.2 A(1)(a)(i) of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations.

Annex 1: decision checklist

This document should be read in conjunction with the application, supporting information and permit/notice.

Aspect considered	Justification / Detail	Criteria met
		Yes
Receipt of submission		
Confidential information	A claim for commercial or industrial confidentiality has not been made.	✓
Identifying confidential information	We have not identified information provided as part of the application that we consider to be confidential. The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance on commercial confidentiality.	✓
Consultation		
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>The application was advertised for public consultation purposes on our website for 20 working days – the consultation period closed on 2nd March 2017. No consultation responses were received.</p>	✓
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 our guidance on what a legal operator is.	✓
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>	✓

Aspect considered	Justification / Detail	Criteria met
		Yes
Site condition report	<p>The operator has provided a description of the condition of the site.</p> <p>We consider this description is satisfactory. The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance on site condition reports and baseline reporting under IED–guidance and templates (H5).</p>	✓
Biodiversity, Heritage, Landscape and Nature Conservation	The application is not within the relevant distance criteria of a site of heritage, landscape or nature conservation, and/or protected species or habitat.	✓
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's risk assessment is satisfactory.</p>	✓
Operating techniques	<p>We have reviewed the techniques used by the operator and compared these with the relevant guidance notes.</p> <p>The Operator will comply with the requirements of Standard rules SR2009 No2 – Low Impact Part A Installation.</p>	✓
The permit conditions		
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>	✓

Aspect considered	Justification / Detail	Criteria met Yes
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 our guidance on what a competent operator is.	✓
Relevant convictions	The Case Management System has been checked to ensure that all relevant convictions have been declared. No relevant convictions were found.	✓
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 our guidance on what a competent operator is.	✓