

Environment Agency permitting decisions

Surrender (Full)

We have decided to accept the surrender of the permit for Aylesford Newsprint Paper Mill operated by Aylesford Newsprint Limited.

The permit number is EPR/BJ7336IL

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

The initial Application EPR/BJ7336IL/S009 received on 22 December 2015 was returned as it did not meet the criteria for a 'low risk' surrender. This decision was made on the basis that unidentified leaks may have occurred from buried drainage pipes, sumps and tanks and we recommended an investigation to quantify the condition of the site.

An amended surrender Application EPR/BJ7336IL/S010 was resubmitted to include results of the site investigation in line with discussions with the Environment Agency.

The site investigation report included analysis of shallow soils and groundwater samples for various determinands so that a comparison to the initial site condition report could be made. Concentrations of potential contaminants in soils were found to be generally low and comparable to the initial report. Similar determinands were found in low concentrations in groundwater.

In relation to the permitted activities we generally agree with the findings of the report, and given the comprehensive records of compliance procedures and groundwater monitoring outlined in the site protection and monitoring programme (SPMP), we confirmed that we would have no objection to the surrender of this permit and that we would support the 'low risk' surrender fee as a demonstration of appropriate fee abatement in this case. This was confirmed in an email to the Applicant 9 May 2016 and was also included with the surrender Application as Appendix 15 to the site condition report (Ref: JER6554, dated May 2016).

Annex 1: decision checklist

This document should be read in conjunction with the application and supporting information.

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.	✓
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. We are satisfied that the facility is fully decommissioned. See Key issues section above.	✓
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. See Key issues section above.	✓