

# Environment Agency permitting decisions

## Surrender

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

The permit number is EPR/WP3634RR/S002.

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

Aylesford Newsprint Ltd went into Administration in February 2015 causing the unexpected closure of the whole papermaking site (environmental permit EPR/BJ7336IL) including the combined heat and power (CHP) facilities (this permit surrender, EPR/WP3634RR/S002). All permitted activities regulated under permit number EPR/WP3634RR ceased and decommissioning began. A Decommissioning and Demolition Environmental Management Plan was implemented to ascertain the feasibility in relation to the significantly reduced resources on site and the reduced time frame for implementing closure.

The installation comprised two CHP units (one restricted use), two starting diesel engines, two auxiliary boilers, distillate fuel oil storage and use, water treatment plant and the transfer of effluent to effluent treatment plant (located on the paper mill site and covered under a different environmental permit). Decommissioning of all plant and pipework, where necessary, has been completed in accordance with the Site Closure Plan and the Decommissioning and Demolition Environmental Management Plan. Pollution risks have been removed with the exception of lubrication oil which remains in the:

- gas turbines approximately 6,500l each
- gas compressors approximately 2,500l each
- steam turbine approximately 10,000l.

This is in order to prevent the plant seizing up whilst being mothballed and achieving a state of 'dead and dark' as detailed in the Site Closure Plan. Once a demolition date has been agreed the above described lubrication oil will be removed appropriately by a suitably qualified recycling contractor. Demolition of the CHP site is not due to take place in the immediate future. It is anticipated that this process will occur after the permit surrender.

Because the company is in administration and the site condition report had already been reviewed as part of EPR/BJ7336IL/S010, in relation to the permitted activities it was agreed that given the comprehensive records of compliance procedures and groundwater monitoring outlined in the site protection and monitoring programme that the Environment Agency would have no objection to the surrender of this permit as a 'low risk' surrender. Further details are presented and discussed within the Site Condition Report Evaluation Template (SECRET).

**Annex 1: decision checklist**

This document should be read in conjunction with the application, supporting information and the Site Condition Report Evaluation Template (SECRET).

Aspect considered	Justification / Detail	Criteria met
		Yes
<b>Receipt of submission</b>		
Confidential information	A claim for commercial or industrial confidentiality has not been made.	✓
Identifying confidential information	We have not identified any 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.	✓
<b>The site</b>		
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. This is indicated as green hatching on the plan on page 4 of this document. 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.	✓
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.	✓

