

# Environment Agency permitting decisions

## Variation

We have decided to issue the variation for Beaumont Leys Snack Foods operated by Walkers Snack Foods Limited.

The variation number is EPR/BT5890IB/V005.

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
- Annex 2 the consultation and web publicising responses

## Key issues of the decision

This variation is to add an anaerobic digestion (AD) plant to the existing site to process the organic waste arising from the manufacturing process. There is no waste brought in from outside the installation.

The application would meet the criteria for standard rules AD permit except for the location criteria as there are receptors nearby.

Therefore additional information has been provided to demonstrate that the receptors will not be impacted by the operation of the AD plant.

## Odour

The Operator updated the Odour Management Plan (OMP) in response to a Schedule 5 request dated 12 May 2015. The OMP has been revised and is in

line with our H4 Odour Management guidance. The OMP identifies the receptors and the potential sources of odour from the AD process, and the controls to manage odour from these sources.

The monitoring proposals are described, and the complaints procedure outlined.

The Operator states that the OMP will be reviewed within 3 months of the AD plant being commissioned and in response to any complaints as part of the Operator's complaints procedure.

## **Bioaerosols**

All activities take place inside the building with extraction and abatement measures that we consider to be satisfactory.

The waste input area is indoors, subject to a regular cleaning schedule; the mixing tank receiving the waste is an enclosed vessel with pipe connections to pump the feedstock from the mixing tank to the digester.

There is no storage of feedstock, and there is no shredding or mixing of food waste outdoors.

At the end of the AD process the digestate is dewatered by centrifuge housed in the technical building, the remaining solid is conveyed to a covered waste container ready for removal. (Liquid waste is routed via the on-site effluent treatment plant).

Overall there is limited potential for bioaerosols to be generated that could extend beyond the site boundary.

Bioaerosol monitoring has not been required in the permit at this time.

## **Air Quality**

The combustion unit, a combined heat and power engine (CHP) is 4.7MW thermal input.

In relation to air quality and the impacts on environmentally sensitive habitats or species; AQTAG 14 (version 1) states that in order to identify applications for installations with combustion processes that are relevant under the Habitats Regulations having used the relevant Stage 1 distance screening criteria, supplementary criteria should be used.

Where the combustion unit is less than 5MW thermal input no further assessment is required, as this combustion process is not deemed to be relevant under the Habitats Regulations.

The permit already contains a NO<sub>x</sub> mass emission limit, and it is expected that the CHP engine will operate within this limit.

## **Site Containment**

The Operator has provided a document on site containment measures including an emergency procedure, and also a site-specific AD Containment risk assessment. It is not practical to install a bund around the AD plant; given the non toxic nature of the contents of the mixing tanks and digester tank, and the level of control measures in place in conjunction with the likelihood of tank failure, the risk is deemed to be minimised.

## Annex 1: decision checklist

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

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>Consultation</b>		
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.	✓
Responses to consultation and web publicising	The web publicising and consultation responses (Annex 2) were taken into account in the decision.  The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance.	✓
<b>Operator</b>		
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 EPR RGN 1 Understanding the meaning of operator.	✓
<b>European Directives</b>		
Applicable directives	All applicable European directives have been considered in the determination of the application.	✓
<b>The site</b>		
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.	✓

Aspect considered	Justification / Detail	Criteria met
		Yes
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>An assessment of the application and its potential to affect the sites has been carried out as part of the permitting process.</p> <p>Two aerial emissions have been added to the permit, that will operate within the existing permitted level for NOx. Therefore there is no additional impact to consider.</p> <p>We consider that the application will not affect the features of the sites.</p> <p>We have not formally consulted on the application. The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance.</p> <p>Local Wildlife Sites:            Castle Hill Country Park: Gorse Hill            Rothley Brook in Charnwood Borough            Castle Hill Country Park Oak            Great Central Railway, Thurcaston to Birstall            Anstey Lane Pastures &amp; Goss Meadows            King William's Bridge, Rothley Brook            Red Hill, Great Central Railway &amp; Belgrave Cemetery            Ashton Green</p> <p>Local Nature Reserve:            Goss Meadows</p>	✓
<b>Environmental Risk Assessment and operating techniques</b>		
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 has provided details to demonstrate the</p>	✓

Aspect considered	Justification / Detail	Criteria met
		Yes
	<p>operating techniques are line with our guidance on matters including feedstock pre-treatment, mixing of feedstock, digestate treatment and disposal, biogas management, and CHP utilisation for heat and power generation.</p> <p>TGN 'How to comply with your Environmental Permit'; TGN 'AD technical guidance note' - <i>(in draft)</i>.</p> <p>The proposed techniques are in line with the benchmark levels contained in the TGN and we consider them to represent appropriate techniques for the facility.</p>	
<b>The permit conditions</b>		
Updating permit conditions during consolidation.	<p>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).</p> <p>The operator has agreed that the new conditions are acceptable.</p>	✓
Incorporating the application	<p>We have specified that the applicant must operate the regulated facility 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>	✓
Emission limits	<p>We have decided that emission limits should be set for the parameters listed in the permit.</p> <p>Limits have been set for the Flare and the CHP engine (see table S3.1 of the permit).</p> <p>The existing emission limits remain unchanged.</p>	✓
Monitoring	<p>We have decided that monitoring should be carried out for the parameters listed in the permit, using the methods detailed and to the frequencies specified.</p>	✓

Aspect considered	Justification / Detail	Criteria met
		Yes
	The monitoring requirements have been updated to include the new activity.	
Reporting	<p>We have specified reporting in the permit.</p> <p>The reporting requirements have been updated to include the new activity.</p>	✓
<b>Operator Competence</b>		
Environment management system	<p>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.</p> <p>Technical ability will be detailed in the management system; demonstrating how the Operator will assess, develop and maintain technical ability.</p>	✓
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 RGN 5 on Operator Competence.	✓

## Annex 2: Consultation and web publicising.

Summary of responses to consultation and web publication and the way in which we have taken these into account in the determination process.

Response received from
Public Health England
Brief summary of issues raised
Based on the information contained in the application supplied to us, Public Health England has no significant concerns regarding the risk to the health of the local population from this installation.  This consultation response is based on the assumption that the permit holder shall take all appropriate measures to prevent or control pollution, in accordance with the relevant sector guidance and industry best practice.
Summary of actions taken or show how this has been covered
No action required; permit will contain conditions appropriate for preventing / controlling pollution.