

Environment Agency permitting decisions

Surrender

We have decided to accept the surrender of the permit for Needwood Research and Development Facility operated by Beta Research & Development Limited.

The permit number is EPR/SP3430HW

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

Low risk surrender of SR2009No2 (low impact Part A installations).
The activity consisted of the following:

Production of chloride melt (sodium tetrachloroaluminate) through the melting of aluminium chloride, sodium chloride and aluminium foil within an insulated 0.16m³ tank which is heated to 200 degrees. The tank has a max holding capacity of 260kg. The tank is used to mix the above materials prior to manual transfer into an adjacent filling unit which dispenses measured amounts of the solution into individual battery cells.

An H1 risk assessment for emission to air for a single discharge stack present on site was provided as part of the original permit application (2010) due to the release of hydrogen chloride. Both short term and long-term emissions of HCl were demonstrated to have unlikely significant environmental effects. A round of stack tests were carried out in 2011 which further presented insignificant emissions were present.

Site officer has carried out final site visit and confirmed the state of the site as suitable for low risk. Local Exhaust Ventilation was provided to an emission stack located outside the unit. Equipment wash-down was to a sink unit which had no drainage collection. Collected liquid was bulked to IBC containers for offsite removal. Research/production activities at the site have now ceased. The melting tank, filling equipment and sink have been cleaned /decontaminated. The liquid waste effluent has been removed off site. Floor area has remained intact as sealed with no evidence of spillage . This along with the supporting documents provide enough information to deem the surrender application as low risk.

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
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.	✓
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.	✓