

Environment Agency

Review of an Environmental Permit under the Environmental Permitting (England & Wales) Regulations 2010 (as amended)

Decision document recording our decision-making process following review of a permit

The Permit number is: EPR/BS3590IE
The Operator is: SABIC UK Petrochemicals Limited
The Installation is: Wilton Olefins Installation
This Variation Notice number is: EPR/BS3590IE/V009

What this document is about

All Environmental permits which permit the operation of large combustion plant (LCP), as defined by articles 28 and 29 of the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED), need to be varied to implement the special provisions for LCP given in the IED, by the 1 January 2016 (Article 82(3)). The IED makes special provisions for LCP under Chapter III, introducing new Emission Limit Values (ELVs) applicable to LCP, referred to in Article 30(2) and set out in Annex V.

The IED provides a period of transition towards the new ELVs via Article 32, the Transitional National Plan (TNP). It also makes provision for plant that wish to be exempted from compliance with the new ELVs in Article 33, the Limited Life Derogation (LLD). Other derogations include limited operating hour regimes for sites using 500 hr or 1500 hr derogations. There are also options for exemption from emission limits based on operating hours.

The operator has submitted a response to our notice requiring information, issued under regulation 60(1) of the Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR), which has provided us with information on which compliance route they wish to follow for each LCP. The response also includes specific details relating to each LCP, necessary for accurate implementation the IED requirements. A copy of the regulation 60 notice and the operator's response is available on the public register.

We have reviewed the permit for this installation, including all variations since the last permit consolidation, and referred to the operator's response to the regulation 60 notice requiring information. This is our decision document, which explains the reasoning for the consolidated variation notice that we have issued.

It explains how we have reviewed and considered the compliance routes and, where relevant, the emissions limits proposed by the Operator for each LCP on the installation. This review has been undertaken with reference to the:

- Chapter III and annex V of the IED
- “IED BAT Non-ESI Review Paper, 28 October 2014” produced by the Environment Agency (referred to as the “2014 Non-ESI BAT review paper” in this document)
- “Electricity Supply Industry – IED compliance protocol for Utility Boilers and Gas Turbines”, published by the Joint Environmental Programme.

It is our record of our decision-making process and shows how we have taken into account all relevant factors in reaching our position.

As well as implementing the chapter III IED compliance of the installation, the consolidated variation notice takes into account and brings together in a single document all previous variations that relate to the original permit issue. Where possible, it also modernises the permit to reflect the conditions contained in our current generic permit template.

However, Section 2.2.2 Emissions to Water (other than groundwater) including heat, from specified points of the original permit includes some bespoke conditions for this site. These have been included in the consolidated permit as follows:

Original condition number	Comment
2.2.2.3	Covered by modern condition 3.1.1
2.2.2.7	Becomes new condition 3.1.3
2.2.2.8	Was varied by Variation V004 (WP3638UX) to include the additional wording “...unless otherwise agreed by the Agency”. This has been added to modern condition 3.1.2.
2.2.2.10 Table 2.2.9	Annual Emission limit are covered by modern condition 3.1.2 and new Table S3.5.
2.2.2.11	Becomes new condition 3.1.4
2.2.2.12, 2.2.2.13, 2.2.2.14, Table 2.2.10	List 1 General Standards references have been deleted as any changes in discharge of “dangerous substances” to sewer from the current situation must be notified to the Environment Agency under condition 2.2.2.11 which has become 3.1.4.
2.2.2.15	Becomes new condition 3.1.5
2.2.2.16	Becomes new condition 3.1.6

Original condition number	Comment
Additionally	
2.2.1.5	Visible smoke to air condition becomes new condition 3.1.8
Table S1.1	Activities table has been reworded to separate the boilers (to reference LCP 292) but amalgamate the furnaces. This should leave the OPRA activity score unaffected.

The introduction of new template conditions makes the Permit consistent with our current general approach and philosophy and with other permits issued to installations in this sector. Although the wording of some conditions has changed, while others have been deleted because of the new regulatory approach, it does not reduce the level of environmental protection achieved by the Permit in any way. In this document we therefore address only our determination of substantive issues relating to chapter III review.

How this document is structured

Glossary

1. Our decision
2. How we reached our decision
3. The legal framework
4. Key Issues

GLOSSARY

Baseload	means: (i) as a mode of operation, operating for >4000hrs per annum; and (ii) as a load, the maximum load under ISO conditions that can be sustained continuously, i.e. maximum continuous rating
BREF	best available techniques reference document
ELV	emission limit value set out in either IED or LCPD
IED	Industrial Emissions Directive 2010/75/EC
LCP	large combustion plant – combustion plant subject to Chapter III of IED
MCR	Maximum Continuous Rating
MSUL/MSDL	Minimum start up load/minimum shut-down load
TNP	Transitional National Plan

1 Our decision

We have decided to issue the Variation Notice to the Operator. This will allow it to continue to operate the Installation, subject to the conditions in the Consolidated Variation Notice.

We consider that, in reaching that decision, we have taken into account all relevant considerations and legal requirements and that the varied permit will ensure that a high level of protection is provided for the environment and human health.

The Consolidated Variation Notice contains many conditions that concern the operation of the non-LCP part of the installation taken from our standard Environmental Permit template including the relevant annexes. We developed these conditions in consultation with industry, having regard to the legal requirements of the Environmental Permitting Regulations and other relevant legislation. This document does not therefore include an explanation for these standard conditions. Where they are included in the Notice, we have considered the techniques identified by the operator for the operation of their installation, and have accepted that the details are sufficient and satisfactory to make those standard conditions appropriate. This document does, however, provide an explanation of our use of “tailor-made” or installation-specific conditions, or where our Permit template provides two or more options.

2 How we reached our decision

2.1 Requesting information relating to the requirements of Chapter III of and Annex V to the IED

We issued a Notice under Regulation 60(1) of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010 (a Regulation 60 Notice) on 31/10/14 requiring the Operator to provide information for each LCP they operate, including:

- The type of plant, size and configuration.
- The proposed compliance route.
- Minimum start up and shut down loads.
- The proposed emission limits and how they accord with the 2014 BAT review paper.

The Regulation 60 Notice response from the Operator was received on 31/03/15.

We considered it was in the correct form and contained sufficient information for us to begin our determination of the permit review but not that it necessarily contained all the information we would need to complete that determination.

The Operator made no claim for commercial confidentiality. We have not received any information in relation to the Regulation 60 Notice response that appears to be confidential in relation to any party.

2.2 Requests for Further Information during determination

We were able to consider the Regulation 60 Notice response generally satisfactory at receipt, and did not need more information in order to complete our permit review assessment.

3 The legal framework

The Consolidated Variation Notice will be issued under Regulations 18 and 20 of the EPR. The Environmental Permitting regime is a legal vehicle which delivers most of the relevant legal requirements for activities falling within its scope. In particular, the regulated facility is:

- an *installation* as described by the IED;
- subject to aspects of other relevant legislation which also have to be addressed.

We consider that, in issuing the Consolidated Variation Notice, it will ensure that the operation of the Installation complies with all relevant legal requirements and that a high level of protection will be delivered for the environment and human health.

We explain how we have addressed specific statutory requirements more fully in the rest of this document.

Meeting the requirements of the IED

The table below shows how each requirement of the IED has been addressed by the permit conditions.

IED Article Reference	IED requirement	Permit condition
30(6)	If there is an interruption in the supply of gas, an alternative fuel may be used and the permit emission limits deferred for a period of up to 10 days, except where there is an overriding need to maintain energy supplies. The EA shall be notified immediately.	Not applicable
32(4)	For installations that have applied to derogate from the IED Annex V emission limits by means of the transitional national plan, the monitoring and reporting requirements set by UK Government shall be complied with.	3.1.32 Schedule 3, Table S3.41
33(1)b	For installations that have applied to derogate from the IED Annex V emission limits by means of the Limited Life Derogation, the operator shall submit annually a record of the number of operating hours since 1 January 2016;	Not applicable
37	Provisions for malfunction and breakdown of abatement equipment including notifying the EA.	Not applicable
38	Monitoring of air emissions in accordance with Annex V Pt 3	3.5, 3.6
40	Multi-fuel firing	Schedule 3, Table 3.1
41(a)	Determination of start-up and shut-down periods	2.3.5 Schedule 1 Table S1.4
Ann V Pt 1(1)	All emission limit values shall be calculated at a temperature of 273,15 K, a pressure of 101,3 kPa and after correction for the water vapour content of the waste gases and at a standardised O2 content of 6 % for solid fuels, 3 % for combustion plants, other than gas turbines and gas engines using liquid and gaseous fuels and 15 % for gas turbines and gas engines.	Schedule 6, Interpretation
Ann V Pt 1	Emission limit values	3.1.2 Schedule 3, Table S3.1
Ann V Pt 1	For plants operating less than 500 hours per year, record the used operating hours	Not applicable
Ann V Pt 1(6(1))	Definition of natural gas	Schedule 6, Interpretation
Ann V Pt 2	Emission limit values	Not applicable
AnnV Pt 3(1)	Continuous monitoring for >100MWth for specified substances	Not applicable
AnnV Pt 3(2, 3, 5)	Monitoring derogations	3.5.1 Schedule 3, Table S3.1
AnnV Pt3(4)	Measurement of total mercury	Not applicable

IED Article Reference	IED requirement	Permit condition
AnnV Pt3(6)	EA informed of significant changes in fuel type or in mode of operation so can check Pt3 (1-4) still apply	2.3.1 Schedule 1, Table S1.2
AnnV Pt3(7)	Monitoring requirements	Not applicable
AnnV Part 3(8,9,10)	Monitoring methods	3.5, 3.6
AnnV Pt 4	Monthly, daily, 95%ile hourly emission limit value compliance	3.5.1 Schedule 3, Table S3.1
AnnV Pt7	Refinery multi-fuel firing SO2 derogation	Not applicable

4. Key Issues

Unless the decision document specifies otherwise we have accepted the applicant's proposals.

Where relevant and appropriate, we have incorporated the techniques described by the Operator in their Regulation 60 Notice response as specific operating techniques required by the permit, through their inclusion in Table S1.2 of the Consolidated Variation Notice.

The variation notice uses an updated LCP number in accordance with the most recent DEFRA LCP reference numbers. The LCP references have changed as follows:

- **LCP 79** is changed to **LCP 292**

LCP 292

This LCP consists of 1 x 73 MWth boiler which vents via a single unit into its own dedicated windshield at emission point A4. The unit burns process generated off gas topped up by natural gas.

Compliance Route:

The operator has proposed to operate this LCP under the TNP compliance route.

For plant operating under the TNP, ELVs are set which have been derived for the period 2016 – 30 June 2020 (the duration of the TNP). At the end of this period it is expected that both Annex V and the revised LCP BREF will become applicable, in which case Annex V or the BAT conclusions must be achieved (whichever is stricter), or operators must have applied for a derogation from the BAT conclusion (if that is stricter: Annex V will apply in any event. The operator will apply, at the appropriate time, to vary the permit again to reflect this.

The operator's current proposals to achieve the stricter ELVs by 30 June 2020, are to either change the burners to low or ultra low NOx burners or decommission the equipment and purchase the steam from a third party. This information is not in any way binding upon the operator and may change.

Net Rated Thermal Input:

The Applicant has stated that the Net Thermal Input is 73MW. We have set an improvement condition to provide confirmation of this via a performance test which is to be carried out by 31/12/16.

Minimum start up load and Minimum shut-down load:

The Operator has defined the "minimum start up load" and "minimum shut-down load" for the LCP in their response to question 6 of the Reg 60, in terms of the output load and percentage of the rated output based on the rated thermal output from the boiler.

We agree with all of these definitions and have set these thresholds in table S1.4 of the permit accordingly. Standard permit condition 2.3.5 has been set to define the period of start up and shut down, referring to the thresholds in this table.

Emission limits:

The operator has proposed limits in line with annex V of the IED and the 2014 BAT review paper. Consequently we have accepted the proposed limits and incorporated them into table 3.1 of the permit.

The current and new permit limits are tabulated below:

Parameter	Existing mg/m3	Reference Period	Annex V mg/m3	New Permit limit mg/m3
NO_x	None	95%ile of hourly averages	100	-
	None	24 hourly averages	55	-
	None	Monthly averages	50	-
	450 (Note:1) (monitor annually)		-	450 (Note:1) (monitor 6 monthly)

Note 1: The limit for emission point A4 is 400mg/m3 until written approval from the Environment Agency of completion of Improvement Condition IC28.

Parameter	Existing mg/m3	Reference Period	Annex V mg/m3	New Permit limit mg/m3
CO	None	95%ile of hourly averages	200	
	None	24 hourly averages	110	
	None	Monthly averages	100	
	None	6 monthly	110	110

Emissions of SO₂ and dust will be determined by calculation.

Reporting efficiency:

In order to ensure the efficiency of plant using fossil fuels is maximised and regularly recorded, condition 1.2.1(b), condition 4.2.2(b) and table S4.2 have been added to the permit.

Monitoring & standards:

Standards for assessment of the monitoring location and for measurement of oxygen, water vapour, temperature and pressure have been added to the permit template for clarity.

A row has been included in table S3.1 which requires the operator to confirm compliance with BS EN 15259 in respect of monitoring location and stack gas velocity profile in the event there is a significant operational change (such as a change of fuel type) to the LCP. For a new plant in pre-operational commissioning the same requirement applies.

Additional IED Chapter II requirements:

Condition 3.1.9 relating to protection of soil, groundwater and groundwater monitoring, has been added in compliance with IED requirements.

Conditions 4.3.1 and 4.3.2 relating to notifications have been amended in compliance with IED requirements.