

Environment Agency permitting decisions

Part surrender

We have decided to accept the surrender of part of the permit for Fawley Power Station operated by RWE Generation UK plc.

The permit number is EPR/WP3535LZ/S004.

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
- justifies the specific conditions in the permit as a result of the partial surrender

Structure of this document

- Key issues
- Annex 1 the decision checklist

Introduction

The applicant, RWE Generation UK plc, applied for a partial surrender of environmental permit EPR/WP3535LZ/S004 for their site, Fawley Power Station. The surrender relates to the removal of a number of the scheduled activities from table S1.1, without the surrender of any associated land.

Fawley Power Station opted out of the Large Combustion Plant Directive (LCPD) and as a result the operator, RWE Generation UK plc, has closed the station in advance of the December 2015 deadline for such plant. Generation of electricity has now ceased at Fawley Power Station and decommissioning work is near completion. RWE is in the process of divesting itself of the site and the ownership, including the intact buildings and plant, expecting to transfer ownership in 2015.

Operation of the Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) fired generating units ceased on 31/03/2013 and operation of the Distillate Fuel Oil (DFO) fired Open Cycle Gas Turbines (OCGT) ceased on 30/09/14.

Stage 1 decommissioning, relating to aspects associated with the HFO units has been completed and Stage 2, which deals with the OCGTs and grid

connection, was completed at the end of 2014. The National Grid connection agreement is being terminated by RWE and the connecting cables were severed, early in 2015, following the appropriate notice period.

All emissions and discharges arising from combustion have permanently ceased. The discharges to water authorised by the permit, relating to storm water, will be retained but varied to make them appropriate to the status of the site.

Limited ground investigation has taken place to characterise ground conditions following cessation of activities. The resulting reports, following investigation, have been submitted in support of the partial surrender application. It is stated and assumed that any remedial works, required across the installation, will take place prior to the full surrender of the environmental permit.

Following the application for partial surrender, no further combustion activity will take place following the site closure by RWE. However, as the site is regulated by a combustion permit and the residual risks on the site relate to historical combustion activities, the environmental permit will continue to include the smallest combustion unit on site, being a single Open Cycle Gas Turbine (OCGT), to allow continued regulation. This specific unit has been decommissioned and cannot operate and is viewed as a 'notional' combustion activity which must remain on the permit in line with EA guidance (LCPD Opt-out power station closure – Guidance to Combustion Sector Operators).

Key issues of the decision

Emissions and Monitoring

Following closure, all emissions to air from combustion will cease. All monitoring requirements associated with discharges to air have been removed.

Emissions to water, associated with process activity will cease.

Discharges of storm and drainage water will continue, including water potentially contaminated by contact with residual material. Water monitoring requirements have been revised and reduced to make them relevant to the nature, and reduced risk, associated with discharges from the closed site.

Discussions between the Operator and Environment Agency have seen an amendment to the expression of monitoring and reporting of Iron. In accordance with the latest monitoring standard and associated guidance Iron will be expressed and reported as dissolved Iron, the emission limit remains unchanged.

Annex 1: decision checklist

This document should be read in conjunction with the Duly Making checklist, the application, supporting information (including Site Condition Report Evaluation Template) and Variation Notice.

Aspect considered	Justification / Detail	Criteria met
		Yes
Receipt of submission		
Confidential information	A claim for commercial or industrial confidentiality has <u>not</u> been made.	✓
Identifying confidential information	We have <u>not</u> 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 facility		
The regulated facility	<p>The permitted regulated facilities have changed as a result of the partial surrender.</p> <p>A single activity remains set within table S1.1 of the environmental permit following cessation of activities, remaining regulated under activity;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S1.1A(1)(a) <p>A single Directly Associated Activity (DAA) remains within table S1.1 of the environmental permit relating to surface water drainage.</p>	✓
The permit conditions		
Changes to permit conditions	<p>The permit conditions have changed as a result of the partial surrender.</p> <p>As a result of this partial surrender conditions have been deleted from Sections 2.3, 3.7, 3.8, 4.2 and 4.3 in addition to tables set in Schedule 3, 4 and 5.</p> <p>As a result of this partial surrender tables have been amended within Schedule 1, 4, 5, 6 and 7.</p>	✓
The site		
Extent of the surrender application	<p>The operator has provided a plan showing the extent of the site of the facility that is to be surrendered.</p> <p>We consider this plan to be satisfactory.</p>	✓
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.	✓

Aspect considered	Justification / Detail	Criteria met
		Yes
Satisfactory state	The partial surrender does not involve the surrender of any land from within the installation boundary as shown within the Schedule 2 of the environmental permit.	✓