

# Review of an Environmental Permit under the Environmental Permitting (England & Wales) Regulations 2010 (“EPR”)

## Decision document recording our decision-making process

We have decided to vary the Permit for Barbers Road Facility operated by Regional Waste Recycling (Commercial) Limited, as a result of an application made by the Operator.

The Permit number is EPR/JP3596NH.

The Variation notice number is EPR/JP3596NH/V010.

## What this document is about

This is a decision document, which accompanies a variation notice.

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.

## Preliminary information and use of terms

We refer to the Permit (both existing and as varied) as “the **Permit**” in this document; and to the variation of the Permit as “the **Variation**”.

The Operator of the Installation is Regional Waste Recycling (Commercial) Limited. We call Regional Waste Recycling (Commercial) Limited “the **Operator**” in this document. We refer to Regional Waste Recycling (Commercial) Limited’s Barbers Road Facility as “the **Installation**”.

The Application was duly made on 30 December 2014.

## **How this document is structured**

- Our decision
- The legal framework
- How we took our decision
- Key issues in the determination
- Annex 1 – the decision checklist

# 1 Our decision

We have issued a Variation, which will allow the Operator to operate their facility as an Installation, subject to the conditions in the varied Permit.

This Variation does several different things:

- **First**, it gives effect to our decisions following the identification of the Operator as undertaking a “newly prescribed activity” (NPA) under the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED);
- **Second**, it takes the opportunity to consolidate two Standard Rules Permits, resulting in a consolidated Permit which should be easier to understand and use; and
- **Third**, it modernises the entire Permit to reflect our current template. The template reflects our modern regulatory permitting philosophy and was introduced because of a change in the governing legislation. This took place when the Pollution Prevention and Control (England and Wales) Regulations 2000 (“PPC”) were replaced in 2008 by a new statutory regime under the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2007 (now the 2016 version).

The introduction of new template conditions makes the Permit consistent with our current general approach and philosophy. Although the wording of some conditions has changed, while others have disappeared because of the new regulatory approach, it does not affect the level of environmental protection achieved by the Permit in any way.

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

The original Permit, issued on 12 April 1994 required that the facility be operated in a manner which would ensure the protection of the environment specified in the existing Guidance at the time. To the extent that we have substantively altered the Permit as a result of the Variation, the new requirements will require a higher level of protection to that which was previously achieved.

As we explained above, we do not address changes to the Permit in this document, to the extent that they give effect to either the consolidation of the two Standard Rules permits, or introduce new template conditions.

## 2 The legal framework

The original Permit was granted on 12 April 1994 under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and regulated under the Waste Management Licensing Regulations 1994.

The Installation will be subject to the requirements of the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) 2010/75/EU and regulated under the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 (SI 2016 No 1154). The IED was transposed in England and Wales by the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales)(Amendment) Regulations 2013 on 27 February 2013.

The IED seeks to achieve a high level of protection for the environment taken as a whole from harmful effects of industrial activities. It does so by requiring each of the industrial installations to have a permit from the competent authority (in England, the Environment Agency, or for smaller Installations, the relevant Local Authority). The IED has increased the number of activities that require an Installations permit. These are predominantly activities previously regulated as “waste operations” and include (when exceeding specific thresholds described in IED):

- hazardous waste treatment for recovery;
- hazardous waste storage;
- biowaste treatment – recovery and/or disposal;
- treatment of slags and ashes;
- metals shredding;
- pre-treatment of waste for incineration/co-incineration;
- biological production of chemicals; and
- independently operated wastewater treatment works serving only industrial activities subject to the IED.

Article 11 of the IED requires the relevant authority (the Environment Agency in this case) to ensure that the Installation is operated in such a way that all the appropriate preventative measures are taken against pollution, in particular through the application of Best Available Techniques (BAT). Under Article 15(2), the Permit must contain emission limit values (ELVs) (or equivalent parameters or technical measures) for any pollutants likely to be emitted from the Installation in significant quantities. These ELVs are to be based on BAT, but also on local factors and EU Environmental Quality Standards. The overarching requirement is to ensure a high level of protection for the environment and human health.

We are required by Article 13 of the IED to keep abreast of developments in BAT. In addition, Article 13 requires us to carry out a periodic review of the Permit's conditions, and to update them if necessary.

The IED also requires the European Commission to organise an exchange of information between EU Member States so that what are known as BAT reference documents (or BREF notes) can be published, creating a level

playing field across the EU, providing a consistent set of standards for new plant, to which regulatory authorities in the Member States can then have reference. These BREF notes are the basis for our own national sector technical guidance. The Commission is also required to update BREF notes on a regular basis. The waste treatment BREF notes are currently being reviewed. Under the IED, all permits will be subject to review within four years of the publication of revised BREF notes. This means that it is currently anticipated that we will need to do a further review against any new standards in the BREF notes at some time in the future.

The IED is to be implemented over several years commencing from 7 January 2013. For existing installations operating “newly prescribed activities”, the relevant date for implementation was 7 July 2015.

### **3 How we reached our decision**

It is the Operator’s responsibility to ensure they are correctly regulated for the activities they are carrying out. Following adoption of the IED, the Environment Agency has engaged in a range of briefings and communications with the waste industry sector to raise awareness of the implications of the IED and the need to ensure their facilities are correctly regulated (particularly after the implementation date of 7 July 2015 for newly prescribed activities).

Early in 2014, the Environment Agency provided further briefings to industry trade bodies and wrote to operators we believed may be implicated by these changes. We provided detailed information sheets that described the implications and the process operators should follow if they decided to have their activities permitted as installations.

We confirmed that most facilities fell into one of two groups:

- Facilities permitted from April 2007  
When these facilities were permitted, a thorough assessment would have been carried out to confirm whether the proposed activities were using “appropriate measures” as a standard to protect the environment.

This standard of protection is the same standards that would have been assessed against had the facilities applied as an Installation activity (i.e. BAT). The permit would have also been issued with modern conditions that ensured protection of the environment.

We consider that these facilities are effectively ‘IED-compliant’ in terms of the technical standard of the facility with the exception of the “newly prescribed activity”. For these facilities, we consider that, in general, no further technical assessment is required, so administrative variations are an appropriate mechanism to show the activities as Installation activities. The administrative variation is a necessary route for the operator to formally ask for this activity to be included in their permit and for us to advertise that request on our Public Register.

The Environment Agency granted permits for new waste activities under the Waste Management Licensing Regulations 1994 beyond April 2007. Where a facility falls into this group, the Environment Agency shall determine whether or not the application was assessed using “appropriate measures”. Where it is determined that the application was assessed using “appropriate measures”, the application will be designated as an “administrative variation”.

- Facilities permitted before April 2007  
For these facilities, a “normal” or “substantial” variation is appropriate because a detailed technical assessment is required on aspects of the Application in addition to the administrative changes. Substantial variations will only be relevant where the newly prescribed activity is being added to an existing installation permit.

#### This Variation

The original Permit was granted on 12 April 1994 and subsequently varied on 6 March 1997 and 15 August 2011. We have reviewed the documentation submitted in support of the original Permit and subsequent variation application(s) in this determination. We are not satisfied that the standard of protection was assessed using appropriate measures. We have determined this Application as a normal variation.

## **4 Key issues in the determination**

Prior to this Variation, the site operated under the following Standard Rules permits - SR2008No.3 Non-hazardous waste transfer with treatment (75,000tpa) and SR2008No19 Non-hazardous sludge biological, chemical and physical treatment site (250,000tpa). The Application was for the inclusion of a biothermic digester, changes to the waste codes that can be accepted/treated and amendments to the tonnages.

Improvement conditions have been included which require the submission of the following:

- Revised waste acceptance and pre-acceptance procedures
- A revised Odour Management Plan
- A Fire Prevention Plan
- A written infrastructure improvement plan

## Annex 1 – decision checklist

Aspect considered	Justification / Detail	Criteria met
		Yes
<b>Consultation</b>		
Responses to web publicising	No responses were received to the web publication.	✓
<b>Operator</b>		
Control of the facility	We are satisfied that the Operator is the person who will have control over the operation of the facility after the variation of the Permit. The decision was taken in accordance with EPR RGN 1 Understanding the meaning of operator.	✓
Competence	The Operator's history of compliance at this site and its related persons' history of compliance at other sites is unsatisfactory. However, in this case because the Application largely arises out of a legislative change and because we are satisfied that the measures we have imposed address risks arising out of additional variations sought by the Operator, we have determined to allow the Variation. This is in accordance with Defra Core Guidance, para 9.20.	✓
<b>The facility</b>		
The regulated facility	<p>The extent/nature of the facilities taking place at the site required clarification, which has been satisfactorily provided.</p> <p>The regulated facility is an installation which comprises the following activities listed in Part 2 of Schedule 1 to the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016:</p> <p>Listed activities:</p> <p>Non-hazardous liquid waste, effluent and sludge treatment which falls under S5.4 A(1) (b) (i) Recovery or a mix of recovery and disposal of non-hazardous waste with a capacity exceeding 75 tonnes per day involving biological treatment.</p> <p>Aerobic digestion which falls under S5.4 A(1) (b) (i) Recovery or a mix of recovery and disposal of non-hazardous waste with a capacity exceeding 75 tonnes per day involving biological treatment.</p> <p>Directly associated activities:</p>	✓

Aspect considered	Justification / Detail	Criteria met
		Yes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Storage of waste pending recovery or disposal</li> <li>Physical treatment for the purpose of recycling or disposal</li> <li>Raw material storage</li> <li>Biothermic output storage</li> <li>Storage of process water and surface water</li> </ul> Waste activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transfer with treatment</li> <li>Storage of waste</li> </ul>	
<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.	✓
<b>Environmental Risk Assessment and operating techniques</b>		
Environmental risk	We have reviewed the Operator's assessment of the environmental risk from the facility. We have included a number of Improvement Conditions to further reduce environmental risk (please see below).	✓
Operating techniques	We have reviewed the techniques used by the Operator and compared these with the relevant guidance notes – including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IPPC S5.06 – Guidance for the Treatment of Hazardous and Non-Hazardous Waste;</li> <li>H4 – Odour Management</li> </ul> We have deemed the operating techniques to be unsatisfactory and consequently have included a number of Improvement Conditions to address this (please see below).	✓
<b>The permit conditions</b>		
Updating permit conditions during consolidation	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).	✓



Aspect considered	Justification / Detail	Criteria met
		Yes
Raw materials	We have specified limits and controls on the use of raw materials and fuels.	✓
Waste types	We have specified the permitted waste types, descriptions and quantities, which can be accepted at the regulated facility.	✓
Improvement conditions	<p>Based on the information in the Application, the compliance history of the Operator at this site, the compliance history of the Operator at another site (Quarry Farm Transfer Station) and the compliance history of the Operator's related persons at other sites, we consider that we need to impose improvement conditions.</p> <p>We have imposed improvement conditions to require that the following are submitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revised waste acceptance and pre-acceptance procedures</li> <li>• A revised Odour Management Plan</li> <li>• A Fire Prevention Plan</li> <li>• A written infrastructure improvement plan</li> </ul>	✓
Incorporating the application	We have specified that the Operator must operate the Permit in accordance with descriptions in the Application, including all additional information received as part of the determination process. These descriptions are specified in the Operating Techniques table in the Permit.	✓
Monitoring	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.	✓
Reporting	We have specified reporting in the Permit. As the monitoring of point source emissions to air is required quarterly, reporting is also required quarterly. Reporting forms have been prepared to facilitate reporting of data in a consistent format. These reporting requirements are deemed sufficient and proportional for the Installation. We made these decisions in accordance with the <i>Industry Standard Protocol for the monitoring of bioaerosols</i> .	✓