

Permitting decisions

Standard rules permit

We have decided to grant the permit for Biscathorpe Wellsite operated by Egdon Resources U.K. Limited.

The permit number is EPR/HP3131JM

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 provides a record of the decision making process. It:

- highlights key issues in the determination
- summarises the decision making process in the decision checklist to show how all relevant factors have been taken into account

Key issues of the decision

This standard rules permit covers the loading, unloading, handling and storage of any crude oil produced at the Biscathorpe Wellsite. Depending on the characteristics of the Biscathorpe Well, a mixture of oil, gas condensate and natural gas may be produced. Extractive wastes are covered under the existing mining waste permit. Oil which is not a waste will be diverted via pipework to dedicated storage tanks onsite for subsequent offsite removal.

Containment

The Biscathorpe Wellsite will have an impermeable membrane in place under the entire oil storage installation. Secondary containment will be provided for all oil storage tanks using temporary bunding for the testing phase and a permanent bund for any long term production at the site. The bund construction for long term production would be installed in line with CIRIA 736 guidance.

The oil storage vessels will be:

- fitted with level detection and alarms and overfill protection;
- be situated in a secondary containment system which:
 - is a minimum of 110% of the storage capacity of the largest vessel, or 25% of the aggregated capacity, whichever is greater;
 - is positioned to minimise the risk of damage by impact from vehicles or machinery;
 - is constructed of materials that are impermeable to water and oil.
 - have no penetrations in the base and walls; and

- is capable of withstanding the hydrostatic head of liquid when full.

Road tanker loading systems will be fully contained and the delivery system shall be fitted with dry break couplings to prevent drips and spillages.

Sensitive receptors

There is one building within 200 meters of the site, however the applicant confirmed that this is a grain store rather than a permanent workplace. We agree with the applicant that the building does not meet the definition of sensitive receptor set out in the standard rules which specifies a sensitive receptor as a place where people may be for periods of six hours or more.

Decision checklist

Aspect considered	Decision
Receipt of application	
Standard rules criteria check	The application meets the criteria for the standard rules applied for.
Confidential information	A claim for commercial or industrial confidentiality has not been made.
Identifying confidential information	We have not identified information provided as part of the application that we consider to be confidential.
Consultation	
Consultation	<p>The consultation requirements were identified in accordance with the Environmental Permitting Regulations and our public participation statement.</p> <p>The application was publicised on the GOV.UK website.</p> <p>The comments and our responses are summarised in the consultation section of this document.</p>
Operator	
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 our guidance on legal operator for environmental permits.
The site	
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. The plan is included in the permit.
Site condition report	The operator has provided a description of the condition of the site, which we consider is satisfactory. The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance on site condition reports.
Operator competence	
Management system	There is no known reason to consider that the operator will not have the management system to enable it to comply with the permit conditions.
Relevant convictions	<p>The Case Management System has been checked to ensure that all relevant convictions have been declared.</p> <p>No relevant convictions were found. The operator satisfies the criteria in our guidance on operator competence.</p>
Financial competence	There is no known reason to consider that the operator will not be financially able to comply with the permit conditions.

Aspect considered	Decision
Growth Duty	<p>We have considered our duty to have regard to the desirability of promoting economic growth set out in section 108(1) of the Deregulation Act 2015 and the guidance issued under section 110 of that Act in deciding whether to grant this permit. The conditions imposed under the permit are reasonable and necessary to avoid a risk of an unacceptable level of pollution and are based on our risk assessment undertaken at the time the Rules were made.</p> <p>Application of the Rules to this activity promotes economic growth amongst legitimate operators because the standards applied to the operator are consistent across businesses in this sector and have been set to achieve the required legislative standards.</p>

Consultation

The following summarises the responses to our notice on GOV.UK for the public and the way in which we have considered these in the determination process.

Responses received to advertising

No responses were received.