

Environment Agency Permitting Decisions

RSR permits for accumulation/disposal of radioactive waste

Record of decision

We have decided to vary the permit specified below.

The permit number is EPR/NB3192DK

The applicant is IGas Energy Production Limited

The facility is located at Cold Hanworth Well Site, Wetmoor Lane, Welton Low Fields, Welton, Lincolnshire LN2 3RD

The decision is effective from permit issued date 29/05/2019

We consider in reaching that decision we have taken into account all relevant considerations and legal requirements and that the permit will ensure the appropriate level of protection of people and the environment. These considerations and legal requirements are set out in the published government and Environment Agency guidance supporting the Environmental Permitting Regulations.

Reasons for our decision

Unless specified otherwise below, we have accepted the applicant's proposals.

Justification

The practice is justified – 31 Activities that may result in the occurrence of Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) [The production of oil and gas]

Operator and operator competence

We are satisfied that the applicant is the person who will have control over the operation of the facility after the grant of the permit.

We have assessed the applicant's management arrangements against our guidance. We have not identified any reasons indicating that the applicant is unable to operate in accordance with the permit.

Disposal of radioactive waste - optimisation

We have assessed the applicant's proposals against our guidance on 'best available techniques'. We are satisfied that the applicant has demonstrated that the best available techniques will be used to minimise the creation of radioactive waste and the activity in (and volume of, where appropriate) radioactive waste to be disposed of.

This application was to permit the operator to receive radioactive waste generated by the NORM industrial activity of the production of oil and gas at other sites. Produced water transferred from other sites will be injected into the hydrocarbon reservoir for production support. This is recognised as the best environmental option to minimise the exposure of the public to ionising radiation.

Disposal routes and limits

Aqueous waste in the form of produced waters will be re injected into the hydrocarbon reservoir for production support. Produced Water may be exported to other sites for disposal.

Disposal routes for solid wastes are not affected by this variation.

Disposal routes and limits for aqueous waste are the same as those in the standard rules permit SR2014 no 4: NORM waste from oil and gas production

Assessment of activity in discharges and disposals

We are satisfied that the operator has identified appropriate measures to assess the activity in discharges and disposals.

Radiological assessment

The operator has not had to assess the radiological impacts of produced waters that will be re-injected into the hydrocarbon reservoir because there is no pathway that could lead to the radiological exposure of members of the public or the environment from such disposals.

Completed by: Regulatory Officer – Radioactive Substances Regulation (RSR)

Date: 22 January 2019