

Permitting decisions

Bespoke permit

We have decided to grant the permit for Beech Farm Poultry Unit operated by Mercer Farming Limited.

The permit number is EPR/FP3139YT.

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 <u>decision checklist</u> to show how all relevant factors have been taken into account; and
- shows how we have considered the consultation responses.

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

Read the permitting decisions in conjunction with the environmental permit. The introductory note summarises what the permit covers.

1

Key issues of the decision

New Intensive Rearing of Poultry or Pigs BAT Conclusions document

The new Best Available Techniques (BAT) Reference document (BREF) for the Intensive Rearing of Poultry or Pigs (IRPP) was published on the 21st February 2017. There is now a separate BAT Conclusions document which sets out the standards that permitted farms will have to meet.

The BAT Conclusions document is as per the following link:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32017D0302&from=EN

Now the BAT Conclusions are published, all new installation farming permits issued after the 21st February 2017 must be compliant in full from the first day of operation.

There are some new requirements for permit holders. The Conclusions include BAT-Associated Emission Levels (BAT-AELs) for ammonia emissions, which will apply to the majority of permits, as well as BAT-AELs for nitrogen and phosphorous excretion.

For some types of rearing practices, stricter standards will apply to farms and housing permitted after the new BAT Conclusions were published.

New BAT Conclusions review

There are 34 BAT Conclusion measures in total within the BAT Conclusion document dated 21st February 2017.

The Applicant has confirmed their compliance with all BAT conditions for the new installation in their document reference 'Beech Farm' received with the application on 17/07/19 which has been referenced in Table S1.2 Operating Techniques of the permit.

The following is a more specific review of the measures the Applicant has applied to ensure compliance with the above key BAT measures:

BAT measure	Applicant compliance measure
BAT 3 - Nutritional management - Nitrogen excretion	The Applicant has confirmed they will demonstrate that the regulated facility achieves levels of Nitrogen excretion below the required BAT-AEL of 0.6 kg N/animal place/year by an estimation using manure analysis for total Nitrogen content.
BAT 4 - Nutritional management - Phosphorous excretion	The Applicant has confirmed they will demonstrate that the regulated facility achieves levels of Phosphorous excretion below the required BAT-AEL of 0.25 kg P ₂ O ₅ /animal place/year by an estimation using manure analysis for total Phosphorous content.
BAT 24 - Monitoring of emissions and process parameters - Total nitrogen and phosphorous excretion	Table S3.3 of the permit concerning process monitoring requires the Operator to undertake relevant monitoring that complies with these BAT Conclusions.
BAT 25 - Monitoring of emissions and process parameters - Ammonia emissions	Table S3.3 of the permit concerning process monitoring requires the Operator to undertake relevant monitoring that complies with these BAT Conclusions.
BAT 26 - Monitoring of	The approved odour management plan (OMP) includes the following details for

BAT measure	Applicant compliance measure
emissions and process parameters - Odour emissions	 Twice daily olfactory checks coinciding with stock inspections (normally 07.00-10.00 hrs and 16.00-18.00hrs) Monitoring carried out weekly, by means of "sniff testing" at the monitoring points by persons not involved directly with the operations at the installation. This will be done at points shown on the monitoring point plan. Records will be kept of the location, whether odour is detected, severity of the odour (scored 0 - 5), duration (intermittent or continuous), ambient temperature, wind strength and wind direction. In the event of a complaint being received, the Area officer will be notified immediately and the monitoring frequency will be increased to three times per week.
BAT 27 - Monitoring of emissions and process parameters - Dust emissions	Table S3.3 of the permit concerning process monitoring requires the Operator to undertake relevant monitoring that complies with these BAT Conclusions. The Applicant has confirmed they will report the dust emissions to the Environment Agency annually by multiplying the dust emissions factor for broilers by the number of birds on site.
BAT 32 - Ammonia emissions from poultry houses - Broilers	The BAT-AEL to be complied with is 0.08 kg NH ₃ /animal place/year. The Applicant will meet this as the emission factor for broilers is 0.034 kg NH ₃ /animal place/year. The installation does not include an air abatement treatment facility, hence the standard emission factor complies with the BAT-AEL.

More detailed assessment of specific BAT measures

<u>Ammonia emission controls – BAT conclusion 32</u>

A BAT Associated Emission Level (AEL) provides us with a performance benchmark to determine whether an activity is BAT. The new BAT Conclusions include a set of BAT-AEL's for ammonia emissions to air from animal housing for broilers.

'New plant' is defined as plant first permitted at the site of the farm following the publication of the BAT Conclusions. All new bespoke applications issued after the 21st February 2017, including those where there is a mixture of old and new housing, will now need to meet the BAT-AEL.

Industrial Emissions Directive (IED)

The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 were made on the 20 February and came into force on 27 February 2013. These Regulations transpose the requirements of the IED.

This permit implements the requirements of the European Union Directive on Industrial Emissions.

Groundwater and soil monitoring

As a result of the requirements of the Industrial Emissions Directive, all permits are now required to contain a condition relating to protection of soil, groundwater and groundwater monitoring. However, the Environment Agency's H5 Guidance states **that it is only necessary for the operator to take samples** of soil or groundwater and measure levels of contamination where there is evidence that there is, or could be existing contamination and:

The environmental risk assessment has identified that the same contaminants are a particular hazard; or

• The environmental risk assessment has identified that the same contaminants are a hazard and the risk assessment has identified a possible pathway to land or groundwater.

H5 Guidance further states that it is **not essential for the operator** to take samples of soil or groundwater and measure levels of contamination where:

- · The environmental risk assessment identifies no hazards to land or groundwater; or
- Where the environmental risk assessment identifies only limited hazards to land and groundwater and there is no reason to believe that there could be historic contamination by those substances that present the hazard; or
- Where the environmental risk assessment identifies hazards to land and groundwater but there is evidence that there is no historic contamination by those substances that pose the hazard.

The site condition report (SCR) for Beech Farm Poultry Unit (dated 26/06/19) demonstrates that there are no hazards or likely pathway to land or groundwater and no historic contamination on site that may present a hazard from the same contaminants. Therefore, on the basis of the risk assessment presented in the SCR, we accept that they have not provided base line reference data for the soil and groundwater at the site at this stage and although condition 3.1.3 is included in the permit no groundwater monitoring will be required.

Odour

Intensive farming is by its nature a potentially odorous activity. This is recognised in our 'How to Comply with your Environmental Permit for Intensive Farming' EPR 6.09 guidance (http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/297084/geho0110brsb-e-e.pdf).

Condition 3.3 of the environmental permit reads as follows:

"Emissions from the activities shall be free from odour at levels likely to cause pollution outside the site, as perceived by an authorised officer of the Environment Agency, unless the Operator has used appropriate measures, including, but not limited to, those specified in any approved odour management plan, to prevent or where that is not practicable to minimise the odour."

Under section 3.3 of the guidance an Odour Management Plan (OMP) is required to be approved as part of the permitting process if, as is the case here, sensitive receptors (sensitive receptors in this instance excludes properties associated with the farm) are within 400 metres of the installation boundary. It is appropriate to require an OMP when such sensitive receptors have been identified within 400 metres of the installation to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to minimise the risk of pollution from odour emissions. There are sensitive receptors within 400 metres of the installation boundary, the nearest which is 187 metres to the west of the installation. The nearest sensitive receptor is not in the path of the prevailing wind. Although there are no sensitive receptors within 100 metres of the installation boundary a high risk odour management plan was submitted as a result of a history of odour complaints during the sites' previous operation as a pig farm and public interest at the planning stage.

The risk assessment for the installation provided with the application lists key potential risks of odour pollution beyond the installation boundary. These activities are as follows:

- Feed delivery and Storage
- Carcass Storage/disposal
- Bird depopulation
- De-littering of poultry houses
- Used litter
- Cleaning operations
- Dirty Water management

Odour Management Plan Review

This OMP is considered acceptable having been assessed against the requirements of 'H4 Odour Management guidance' published 04/04/11, 'How to comply with your Intensive Farming environmental permit, Appendix 4', version 2 January 2010, 'Top tips for completing an intensive farming odour management plan' dated March EPR/FP3139YT/A001

2018, 'Poultry Industry Good Practise Checklist' version 2, August 2013 and the 'Intensive Rearing of Poultry or Pigs BAT Conclusions' dated 21/02/17. The Operator is required to manage activities at the Installation in accordance with condition 3.3.1 of the permit and this OMP.

The OMP sets out the preventative measures that will be taken on the Installation as part of the daily management of odour risk at the site. Preventative measures have been specified for all of the potential odour sources from the Installation. A contingency plan has been included in the event that any of the preventative measures fail, which would be indicated by detection of abnormally high odours or through receipt of an odour complaint. A list of primary and secondary remedial measures are included in the contingency plan, including triggers for commencing and ceasing use of these measures and time frames for putting measures in place. It is anticipated that these measures should be sufficient to address the risk of odour from the Installation.

We, the Environment Agency, have reviewed and approved the Odour Management Plan (OMP). We agree with the scope and suitability of key measures, but this should not be taken as confirmation that the details of equipment specification design, operation and maintenance are suitable and sufficient - that remains the responsibility of the Operator.

The OMP will be reviewed at least once a year to assess the effectiveness of odour control methods and procedures.

Noise

Intensive farming by its nature involves activities that have the potential to cause noise pollution. This is recognised in our 'How to Comply with your Environmental Permit for Intensive Farming' EPR 6.09 guidance. Under section 3.4 of this guidance, a Noise Management Plan (NMP) must be approved as part of the permitting determination if there are sensitive receptors within 400m of the installation boundary.

Condition 3.4 of the permit reads as follows:

"Emissions from the activities shall be free from noise and vibration at levels likely to cause pollution outside the site, as perceived by an authorised officer of the Environment Agency, unless the operator has used appropriate measures, including, but not limited to, those specified in any approved noise and vibration management plan, to prevent or where that is not practicable to minimise the noise and vibration".

There are sensitive receptors within 400 metres of the installation boundary. The Operator has provided an NMP as part of the application supporting documentation.

The risk assessment for the installation provided with the application lists key potential risks of noise pollution beyond the installation boundary. These activities are as follows:

- Ventilation fans
- Feed and fuel deliveries
- Feed transfer
- Alarm systems
- Bird catching
- Vehicle movements
- Clean out operations
- Personnel
- Removal of litter and waste water
- Repairs and servicing
- Standby generator

Conclusion

We have assessed the NMP and the H1 risk assessment for noise and conclude that the Applicant has followed the guidance set out in EPR 6.09 Appendix 5 'Noise management at intensive livestock installations'. We are

satisfied that all sources and receptors have been identified, and that the proposed mitigation measures will minimise the risk of noise pollution / nuisance.

The NMP will be reviewed at least once a year to assess the effectiveness of noise control methods and procedures.

Dust and Bio aerosols

The use of Best Available Techniques and good practice will ensure minimisation of emissions. There are measures included within the permit (the 'Fugitive Emissions' conditions) to provide a level of protection. Condition 3.2.1 'Emissions of substances not controlled by an emission limit' is included in the permit. This is used in conjunction with condition 3.2.2 which states that in the event of fugitive emissions causing pollution following commissioning of the installation, the Operator is required to undertake a review of site activities, provide an emissions management plan and to undertake any mitigation recommended as part of that report, once agreed in writing with the Environment Agency.

There are two sensitive receptors within 100 metres of the installation boundary (staff houses) both of which are on-site.

The Applicant has provided a dust and bio aerosol risk assessment.

In addition guidance on our website concludes that Applicants need to produce and submit a dust and bio aerosol management plan beyond the requirement of the initial risk assessment, with their applications only if there are relevant receptors within 100 metres of their farm, e.g. the farmhouse or farm worker's houses. Details can be found via the link below:

www.gov.uk/guidance/intensive-farming-risk-assessment-for-your-environmental-permit#air-emissions-dust-and-bioaerosols.

As there are receptors within 100 metres of the installation, the Applicant was required to submit a dust and bio aerosol management in this format.

In the guidance mentioned above it states that particulate concentrations fall off rapidly with distance from the emitting source. This fact, together with the proposed good management of the installation (such as keeping areas clean from build-up of dust and other measures in place to reduce dust and the risk of spillages) (e.g. litter and feed management/delivery procedures) all reduce the potential for emissions impacting the nearest receptors. The Applicant has confirmed the following measures in their operating techniques to reduce dust:

- Vents from feed silos covered to prevent release to atmosphere
- Use of oil coated pelleted feed
- Sealed pipe delivery into poultry houses; free fall of feed into hoppers minimised by covers on hoppers
- Pan feeding system preventing over feeding
- Any feed spills cleared up immediately
- Use of dust extracted shavings
- Bedding base layer spread inside houses with minimum ventilation running, top up bedding in sealed plastic bales
- Trailers parked close to doors; litter tipped carefully into trailers and trailers sheeted prior to leaving site
- Exhaust vents washed under low pressure during cleaning process to minimise both release of dust to atmosphere and escape of contaminated water

Conclusion

We are satisfied that the measures outlined in the application will minimise the potential for dust and bioaerosol emissions from the installation.

Biomass Boiler

The Applicant is installing one biomass boiler with a net rated thermal input of 0.995 MW.

The Environment Agency has assessed the pollution risks and has concluded that air emissions from small biomass boilers are not likely to pose a significant risk to the environment or human health providing certain conditions are met. Therefore a quantitative assessment of air emissions will not be required for poultry sites where:

- the fuel will be derived from virgin timber, miscanthus or straw, and;
- the biomass boiler appliance and installation meets the technical criteria to be eligible for the Renewable Heat Incentive, and;
- the aggregate boiler net rated thermal input is:
 - A. less than 0.5MWth, or;
 - B. less than 1MWth where the stack height is greater than 1 metre above the roof level of adjacent buildings including building housing boiler(s) if relevant (where there are no adjacent buildings, the stack height must be a minimum of 3 metres above ground), and there are:
 - no Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Ramsar sites or Sites of Special Scientific Interest within 500 metres of the emission point(s);
 - no National Nature Reserves, Local Nature Reserves, ancient woodlands or local wildlife sites within 100 metres of the emission point(s), or;
 - C. less than 2MWth where, in addition to the above criteria for less than 1MWth boilers, there are:
 - no sensitive receptors within 150 metres of the emission point(s).

This is in line with the Environment Agency's May 2013 document "Biomass boilers on EPR Intensive Farms". An assessment has been undertaken to consider the proposed addition of the biomass boiler(s).

The Environment Agency's risk assessment has shown that the biomass boiler meets the requirements of criteria B above and are therefore considered not likely to pose a significant risk to the environment or human health. No further assessment is required.

Ammonia

There are five Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) located within 5 km of the installation. There are also six Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) and one Ancient Woodland (AW) within 2 km of the installation.

Ammonia assessment - SSSI

The following trigger thresholds have been applied for assessment of SSSIs:

- If the process contribution (PC) is below 20% of the relevant critical level (CLe) or critical load (CLo) then the farm can be permitted with no further assessment.
- Where this threshold is exceeded an assessment alone and in combination is required. An incombination assessment will be completed to establish the combined PC for all existing farms identified within 5 km of the SSSI.

Initial screening using the ammonia screening tool version 4.5 has indicated that emissions from Beech Farm Poultry Unit will only have a potential impact on SSSI with a precautionary CLe of $1\mu g/m^3$ if they are within 1,462 metres of the emission source.

Beyond 1,462 metres the PC is less than $0.2\mu g/m^3$ (i.e. less than 20% of the precautionary $1\mu g/m^3$ CLe) and therefore beyond this distance the PC is insignificant. In this case all SSSI are beyond this distance (see table 1 below) and therefore screen out of any further assessment.

Where the precautionary level of $1\mu g/m^3$ is used and the PC is assessed to be less than 20%, the site automatically screens out as insignificant and no further assessment of CLo is necessary. In this case the $1\mu g/m^3$ level used has not been confirmed by Natural England, but it is precautionary. It is therefore possible to conclude no likely damage to these sites.

Table 1 - SSSI Assessment

Name of SSSI	Distance from site (m)
Honington Camp SSSI	1,942
Copper Hill SSSI	2,333
Moor Closes SSSI	3,690
Wilsford Heath Quarry SSSI	2,475
Ancaster Valley SSSI	3,254

Ammonia assessment - LWS/AW

The following trigger thresholds have been applied for the assessment of these sites:

• If the process contribution (PC) is below 100% of the relevant critical level (CLe) or critical load (CLo) then the farm can be permitted with no further assessment.

Initial screening using ammonia screening tool version 4.5 has indicated that emissions from Beech Farm Poultry Unit will only have a potential impact on the LWS/AW sites with a precautionary CLe of $1\mu g/m^3$ if they are within 501 metres of the emission source.

Beyond 501 metres the PC is less than $1\mu g/m^3$ and therefore beyond this distance the PC is insignificant. In this case all LWS/AW sites are beyond this distance (see table 2 below) and therefore screen out of any further assessment.

Table 2 - LWS/AW Assessment

Name of LWS/AW	Distance from site (m)
Belton Park and Golf Course LWS	1,324
Minnetts Wood LWS	1,952
Syston Park, Heath Lane Verge LWS	596
Welby, Main Street Verge LWS	2,079
High Dike, Copper Hill to Londonthorpe Verges LWS	971
Heath Lane, Wild Flower Way LWS	1,713
Minnetts Wood AW	1,959

Decision checklist

Aspect considered	Decision	
Receipt of application		
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	The consultation requirements were identified in accordance with the Environmental Permitting Regulations and our public participation statement.	
	The application was publicised on the GOV.UK website.	
	We consulted the following organisations:	
	 Planning – Lincolnshire County Council; 	
	Environmental Health – South Kesteven District Council;	
	The Director of Public Health;	
	Public Health England; and	
	The Health and Safety Executive.	
	The comments and our responses are summarised in the consultation section.	
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 facility		
The regulated facility	We considered the extent and nature of the facility at the site in accordance with RGN2 'Understanding the meaning of regulated facility'.	
	The extent of the facility is defined in the site plan and in the permit. The activities are defined in table S1.1 of the permit.	
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 and baseline reporting under the Industrial Emissions Directive.	
Biodiversity, heritage, landscape and nature conservation	The application is within the relevant distance criteria of a site of heritage, landscape or nature conservation, and/or protected species or habitat.	
	We have assessed the application and its potential to affect all known sites of nature conservation, landscape and heritage and/or protected species or habitats identified in the nature conservation screening report as part of the permitting process.	

Aspect considered	Decision		
	We consider that the application will not affect any sites of nature conservation, landscape and heritage, and/or protected species or habitats identified.		
	We have not consulted Natural England on the application. The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance.		
	In accordance with the Environment Agency's Air Quality Technical Advisory Guidance 14: "for combustion plants under 5MW, no habitats assessment is required due to the size of combustion plant". Therefore this proposal is considered acceptable and no further assessment is required.		
Environmental risk assessi	Environmental risk assessment		
Environmental risk	We have reviewed the Operator's assessment of the environmental risk from the facility.		
	The Operator's risk assessment is satisfactory.		
Operating techniques			
General operating techniques	We have reviewed the techniques used by the Operator and compared these with the relevant guidance notes and we consider them to represent appropriate techniques for the facility.		
	The operating techniques that the Applicant must use are specified in table S1.2 in the environmental permit.		
	The operating techniques are as follows:		
	The houses are ventilated by high velocity roof fan outlets, with emission points higher than 5.5 metres above ground level, with an efflux speeds of 11 metres per second, with side inlets and gable end fans. The houses are insulated and equipped with nipple drinking systems.		
	Drainage from animal housing and water from cleaning out is collected in underground storage tanks. Clean drainage systems are not contaminated.		
	Litter is placed in trailers following clean out. Once full, trailers are covered and litter is removed from site. Used litter is not stored at the installation.		
	Carcasses are stored in locked containers and collected 3-5 times per week by a licensed collection agent.		
	All working areas around the poultry houses are concreted to prevent emissions to ground.		
	the fuel for the biomass boiler is derived from virgin timber;		
	the biomass boiler appliance and its installation meets the technical criteria to be eligible for the Renewable Heat Incentive; and		
	the stack is 1m or more higher than the apex of the adjacent buildings.		
	The proposed techniques for priorities for control are in line with the benchmark levels contained in the Sector Guidance Note EPR6.09 and we consider them to represent appropriate techniques for the facility. The permit conditions ensure compliance with relevant BREFs.		
Odour management	We have reviewed the odour management plan in accordance with our guidance on odour management.		
	We consider that the odour management plan is satisfactory.		

Aspect considered	Decision
	See <u>key issues</u> section.
Noise management	We have reviewed the noise management plan in accordance with our guidance on noise assessment and control.
	We consider that the noise management plan is satisfactory.
	See <u>key issues</u> section.
Permit conditions	
Use of conditions other than those from the template	Based on the information in the application, we consider that we do not need to impose conditions other than those in our permit template.
Raw materials	We have specified limits and controls on the use of raw materials and fuels.
	We have specified that only virgin timber (including wood chips and pellets), straw, miscanthus or a combination of these, are acceptable. These materials are never to be mixed with or replaced by waste.
Emission limits	ELVs based on BAT have been set for the following substances:
	0.6 kg N excreted/animal place/year
	0.25 kg P₂O₅ excreted/animal place/year
	0.08 kg NH₃/animal place/year
	See <u>key issues</u> section.
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.
	These monitoring requirements have been imposed in order to implement the IRPP BAT Conclusions dated 21/02/17.
	See <u>key issues</u> section.
Reporting	We have specified reporting in the permit for emissions of ammonia, dust, nitrogen and phosphorus.
	We made these decisions in accordance with the IRPP BAT Conclusions dated 21/02/17.
	See <u>key issues</u> section.
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.
	The decision was taken in accordance with the guidance on operator competence and how to develop a management system for environmental permits.
Relevant convictions	The Case Management System has been checked to ensure that all relevant convictions have been declared.
	No relevant convictions were found. The Operator satisfies the criteria in our guidance on operator competence.

Aspect considered	Decision
Financial competence	There is no known reason to consider that the operator will not be financially able to comply with the permit conditions.
Growth Duty	
Section 108 Deregulation Act 2015 – Growth duty	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 vary this permit.
	Paragraph 1.3 of the guidance says:
	"The primary role of regulators, in delivering regulation, is to achieve the regulatory outcomes for which they are responsible. For a number of regulators, these regulatory outcomes include an explicit reference to development or growth. The growth duty establishes economic growth as a factor that all specified regulators should have regard to, alongside the delivery of the protections set out in the relevant legislation."
	We have addressed the legislative requirements and environmental standards to be set for this operation in the body of the decision document above. The guidance is clear at paragraph 1.5 that the growth duty does not legitimise non-compliance and its purpose is not to achieve or pursue economic growth at the expense of necessary protections.
	We consider the requirements and standards we have set in this permit are reasonable and necessary to avoid a risk of an unacceptable level of pollution. This also promotes 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.

Consultation

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

Responses from organisations listed in the consultation section

Response received on 11/10/19 from

Public Health England (PHE)

Brief summary of issues raised

PHE identified the main emissions of potential public health significance as emissions to air of bio aerosols, dust, including particulate matter, and ammonia, together with emissions of products of combustion from the on-site biomass boiler.

It is assumed by PHE that the installation will comply in all respects with the requirements of the permit, including the application of Best Available Techniques (BAT). This should ensure that emissions present a low risk to human health.

Summary of actions taken or show how this has been covered

The operator has submitted a dust (including bio aerosols) risk assessment which has been reviewed and we are satisfied that the measures outlined will minimise the potential for dust and bio aerosol emissions from the installation.

Possible emissions have been assessed during the determination as unlikely to have a significant impact and therefore we have included standard conditions which require the operator to action any emissions management plan should a substantiated negative impact be notified.

Information regarding the biomass boiler has been provided and assessed during determination as unlikely to have a significant impact.

Standard conditions 3.2.1 and 3.2.2 concerning fugitive emissions are included in the permit.

The following organisations were consulted, however no responses were received:

- The Director of Public Health;
- The Health and Safety Executive;
- Planning Lincolnshire County Council; and
- Environmental Health South Kesteven District Council.