



Assessing application site condition reports and surrender site condition reports submitted under the Environmental Permitting regime (non-landfill)

Operational instruction 233_06

Issued 10/08/2011

This document is for staff at level 3 capability Issuing and Maintaining Permits in the Groundwater and Contaminated Land technical development framework, NPS and EM/PPC officers.



Document details

What's it about?

This document provides a framework for officers to assess application site condition reports and surrender site condition reports.

It should be read in conjunction with regulatory guidance series Note 9 on site condition records, H1 Core guidance and H5: Site condition report – guidance and templates.

The site condition report (SCR) is a live document that should be updated/ reviewed at three stages;

- at application;
- during the lifetime of the permit;
- at surrender.

The Environmental Permitting regime is designed to ensure that land and water are protected from the permitted activity. Operators must ensure that there is no deterioration in the quality of land and water during the lifetime of the permit and should maintain appropriate records to demonstrate that this is the case. The SCR provides a means of recording that protection measures required by the permit are effective and enables the operator to demonstrate at surrender that the site is in a satisfactory state.



Related documents



Feedback

Contact for queries

Mike Harget

Which sites does it apply to?

This document applies to installations and non-landfill waste facilities, as specified in Regulatory Guidance Note 9.

What do we need to do?

SCR evaluation templates are provided for you to assess whether the land and waters are being protected at the application, operational and surrender stages. The templates prompt you to consider whether the information supplied is sufficient, identify what further information is needed and determine whether there is reasonable possibility that pollution of the land from the activities has been prevented.

You should review the information contained in the SCR that you are assessing, complete the appropriate template and advise NPS of your decision. The decision will be site-specific and based upon the information provided, the type of activity undertaken, the setting of the site and in some cases the proposed use of the site. Further information is provided in Regulatory Guidance Note 9, H1 and H5.

The operator's H1 environmental risk assessment should describe potential sources of pollution (activities and substances), potential pathways (e.g. drainage, groundwater) and receptors (site setting). You should consider this information alongside the application SCR to determine if pollution prevention measures at the site are likely to be appropriate and effective. Any missing information that is not contained in another part of the application should be requested from the operator by the permitting team.

The operational phase of the SCR evaluation template may be completed annually. Information submitted during the operational phase should be considered alongside our own records and information provided through our compliance checks.

The surrender SCR evaluation template must be completed and returned to the permitting team when the permitted activities have ceased and decommissioning works have been completed. We should not accept an application to surrender an environmental permit until the operator has shown that pollution risk has been removed and the site is in a satisfactory state.

We can't require baseline data to be collected through specific permit conditions but we can recommend that in certain cases it is in the operator's best interests to collect background data so they can demonstrate no deterioration at surrender.

**What is
satisfactory
state?**

Operators should aim to restore the land and waters to the state they were in prior to any operation starting. Operators must demonstrate that the land and waters are in a satisfactory state at surrender either by using records collected throughout the life of the permit or by comparison between data gathered at the application and surrender stages. They are responsible for identifying what information they will need at surrender and for collecting this information throughout the lifetime of the permit. To show that the condition of the land and waters are in a satisfactory state, these records must show that:

- measures taken to protect land have been effective, and
- pollution incidents that may have impacted on land have been investigated and remediated, and
- soil gas and/or water quality monitoring (if undertaken) shows no deterioration in the condition of the site or where deterioration has occurred this has been investigated and remediated, and
- decommissioning works and works to remove pollution risk have not caused any deterioration in the condition of the land or waters, or where this is not the case, that this has been investigated and remediated.

If operators are not able to show that the land and waters are in a satisfactory state using this information (because records are not available, are incomplete or because they do not show that no deterioration has occurred) the surrender application will not be accepted and they are likely to need surrender reference data. If the surrender data shows an impact remedial works are likely to be required.

Application SCR evaluation template

(To be completed by NPS, GWCL and EM/PPC officers).

Name of activity, address and NGR	E.ON UK Cogeneration Limited Castleford Power Station Wheldon Road Castleford West Yorkshire WF10 2JT SE43212631
-----------------------------------	--

Document reference of application SCR	Application Surrender – Site Condition Report 27_10_20.pdf
---------------------------------------	---

Date and version of application SCR	V2.0 4 August 2008
-------------------------------------	--------------------

1.0 Site details To be completed by NPS (Source)	
Has the applicant provided the following information as required by the application SCR template?	Response (Specify what information is needed from the applicant, if any)
Site plans showing site layout, drainage, surfacing, receptors, sources of emissions/releases and monitoring points	Yes – in so far as this is a low impact surrender. A plan of the installation has been provided. There was no requirement when permitted for the Operator to undertake an intrusive groundwater / soil sampling and monitoring programme through the life of the permit. The site is all hard standing.

2.0 Condition of the land at permit issue To be completed by GWCL officers (Receptor)	
Has the applicant provided the following information as required by the application SCR template?	Response (Specify what information is needed from the applicant, if any)
a) Environmental setting including geology, hydrogeology and surface waters b) Pollution history including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pollution incidents that may have affected land • historical land-uses and associated contaminants • visual/olfactory evidence of existing contamination • evidence of damage to existing pollution prevention measures c) Evidence of historic contamination (i.e. historical site investigation, assessment, remediation and verification reports (where available)) d) Has the applicant chosen to collect baseline reference data?	Yes. See section 9 below for outcome.

3.0 Permitted activities To be completed by NPS officers (Source)	
Has the applicant provided the following information as required by the application SCR template?	Response (Specify what information is needed from the applicant, if any)
a) Permitted activities b) Non-permitted activities undertaken at the site	Yes.

3.0(a) Environmental Risk Assessment	
To be completed by NPS officers (Source)	
The H1 environmental risk assessment should identify elements that could impact on land and waters, cross-referenced back to documents and plans provided as part of the wider permit application.	A H1 assessment was provided as part of the original application and accepted in full.

3.0(b) Will the pollution prevention measures protect land and groundwater?	
To be completed by EM/PPC officers (Conceptual model)	
Are the activities likely to result in pollution of land?	No. There was no requirement when the site was first permitted for the Operator to undertake an intrusive groundwater / soil sampling and monitoring programme through the life of the permit. This is because the site is all hard standing, secondary / tertiary containment measures were deemed adequate and the EMS set out comprehensive inspection programmes for said secondary and tertiary containment systems.
For dangerous and/or hazardous substances only, are the pollution prevention measures for the relevant activities to a standard that is likely to prevent pollution of land?	See above.

Application SCR decision summary	Tick relevant decision
To be completed by GWCL officer and returned to NPS	
Sufficient information has been supplied to describe the condition of the site at permit issue; or	Yes
Information is missing- the following information must be obtained from the applicant.	N/A
Pollution of land and water is unlikely; or	N/A
Pollution of land and water is likely	N/A
Historical contamination is present- advise operator that collection of background data may be appropriate	N/A
Date and name of reviewer	Jennifer Lear 15/01/2021

Operational phase SCR evaluation template

(To be completed by EM/PPC and GWCL officers).

Sections 4.0. to 7.0 may be completed annually in line with normal record checks.

4.0 Changes to the activities To be completed by EM/PPC officers (Source)	
Have there been any changes to the following during the operation of the site?	Response (Specify what information is needed from the applicant, if any)
a) Activity boundaries b) Permitted activities c) "Dangerous substances" used or produced	No.

5.0 Measures taken to protect land To be completed by EM/PPC officers (Pathway)	
Has the applicant provided evidence from records collated during the lifetime of the permit, to show that the pollution prevention measures have worked?	Yes – records from the EMS (PRISMA / ARNIE) were provided as requested.

6.0 Pollution incidents that may have impacted on land and their remediation To be completed by EM/PPC officers (Sources)	
Has the applicant provided evidence to show that any pollution incidents which have taken place during the life of the permit and which may have impacted on land or water have been investigated and remediated (where necessary)?	Yes – records from the EMS (PRISMA / ARNIE) were provided as requested.

7.0 Soil gas and water quality monitoring (where relevant) To be completed by GWCL officers	
Where soil gas and/or water quality monitoring has been undertaken, does this demonstrate that there has been no change in the condition of the land? Has any change that has occurred been investigated and remediated?	N/A

Surrender SCR Evaluation Template

If you haven't already completed previous sections 4.0 to 7.0, do so now before assessing the surrender.

8.0 Decommissioning and removal of pollution risk	
To be completed by EM/PPC officers	
Has the applicant demonstrated that decommissioning works have been undertaken and that all pollution risks associated with the site have been removed? Has any contamination of land that has occurred during these activities been investigated and remediated?	All permitted activities have ceased and all sources of pollution risk have been removed before the Surrender SCR was produced. I, the site Inspector, have undertaken three inspections dealing with cessation of activities, decontamination and removal of potentially polluting substances – the last one on 23 October 2020. All pollution risks have been removed.

10.0 Statement of site condition	
To be completed by EM/PPC officers	
Has the applicant provided a statement, backed up with evidence, confirming that the permitted activities have ceased, decommissioning works are complete and that pollution risk has been removed and that the land and waters at the site are in a satisfactory state?	Yes.

9.0 Reference data and remediation (where relevant)	
To be completed by GWCL officers	
Has the applicant provided details of any surrender reference data that they have collected and any remediation that they have undertaken? (Reference data for soils must meet the requirements of policy 307_03 Chemical test data on contaminated soils – quantification requirements). If the surrender reference data shows that the condition of the land has changed as a result of the permitted activities, the applicant will need to undertake remediation to return the condition of the land back to that at permit issue. You should not require remediation of historic contamination or contamination arising from non-permitted activities as part of the permit surrender.	<p>The baseline conditions were established in 1997. The permit did not contain a condition for routine groundwater or soil monitoring during the lifetime of the permit.</p> <p>No groundwater or soil data has been provided to support the surrender application. The applicant has chosen to demonstrate that the measures to prevent contamination were appropriate and maintained throughout the lifetime of the permit.</p> <p>Therefore there is no evidence on which the Groundwater and Contaminated Land team can comment. Instead the regulatory officer should be consulted on the information provided within the surrender application.</p> <p>The surrender application is assessed on the basis of whether permitted activities have adversely impacted the condition of the land. It does not take confirm that the land is free from other contamination.</p>

10.0 Statement of site condition	
To be completed by GWCL officers	
Has the applicant provided a statement, backed up with evidence, confirming that the permitted activities have ceased, decommissioning works are complete and that pollution risk has been removed and that the land and waters at the site are in a satisfactory state?	Sufficient information has been provided by applicant.

Surrender SCR decision summary To be completed by GWCL officers and returned to NPS	Tick relevant decision
Sufficient information has been supplied to show that pollution risk has been removed and that the site is in a satisfactory state – accept the application to surrender the permit; or	yes
Insufficient information has been supplied to show that pollution risk has been removed or that the site is in a satisfactory state – do not accept the application to surrender the permit. The following information must to be obtained from the applicant before the permit is determined:	N/A
Date and name of reviewer	Jennifer Lear 15/01/2021

Related documents

Links

- [676_06 Environmental Permitting Regulations: Site condition reports](#)
 - [H1 Environmental risk assessment for permits](#)
 - [H5 Guidance](#)
 - [H5 Site condition report template](#)
 - [Regulatory guidance note 9 : Demonstrating land and groundwater are protected to assist the surrender of an environmental permit](#)
-