

Permitting Decisions- Variation

We have decided to grant the variation for Bovingdon Poultry Processing Plant operated by IHP Limited.

The variation number is EPR/MP3436CA/V003

The variation is for

This application by the operator is to update the current permit to reflect the status of the plant in its current position. After an internal review completed by IHP and findings from the Environmental Agency the permit was deemed deficient with regards to newly installed and updated equipment namely:

- Blood storage / Offal tanks
- Effluent Treatment
- Refrigeration

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 summarises the decision-making process to show how the main relevant factors have been taken into account. We have assessed the aspects that are changing as part of this variation, and have revisited other sections of the permit.

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 considerations section to show how the main relevant factors have been taken into account

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

Read the permitting decisions in conjunction with the environmental permit and the variation notice.

Key issues of the decision

This application has withdrawn some, no longer relevant improvement programmes plus extended and introduced two new improvement programmes.

The agency has in agreement with the Operator accepted the use of a limited rating generator on site. The generator has been de-rated from a 1.2MW to 0.8MW, which means the generator will not fall under the Medium Combustion Plant Directive. However as this diesel generator has not been assessed for air emissions, (this was apparently swapped for another generator which was creating noise on site) please see IP10.

There are currently 21 items of refrigeration on site a schedule 5 question was sent to the operator to provide information on each piece of plant the operator did not fulfil the full extent of the schedule 5 question hence the operator has been required via IP9 to produce a Refrigeration Management System. This is to allow the agency to gain a fuller understanding of the plant and how it is managed by the operator and to avoid inefficient and polluting use of the plant.

Confidential information

A claim for commercial or industrial confidentiality has not been made.

The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance on confidentiality.

Identifying confidential information

We have not identified information provided as part of the application that we consider to be confidential.

The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance on confidentiality.

The site

The operator has provided a plan which we consider to be satisfactory.

These show the extent of the site of the facility including the discharge points.

The plan is included in the permit.

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

We have reviewed the techniques proposed by the operator and compared these with the relevant technical guidance 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.

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.

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 and we approve this plan.

We have approved the odour management plan as we consider it to be appropriate measures based on information available to us at the current time. The applicant should not take our approval of this plan to mean that the measures in the plan are considered to cover every circumstance throughout the life of the permit.

The applicant should keep the plans under constant review and revise them annually or if necessary sooner if there have been complaints arising from operations on site or if circumstances change. This is in accordance with our guidance 'Control and monitor emissions for your environmental permit'.

The plan has been incorporated into the operating techniques S1.2.

Updating permit conditions during consolidation

We have updated permit conditions to those in the current generic permit template as part of permit consolidation. The conditions will provide the same level of protection as those in the previous permit.

Raw materials

We have specified limits and controls on the use of raw materials and fuels.

Improvement programme

Based on the information on the application, we consider that we need to include an improvement programme.

We have included an improvement programme to ensure that the Operator looks at ways of improving the flexible curtain on site as it currently does not afford good protection against the escape of odour from the site. Also we have asked the operator to put in place a Refrigeration management system. The reasoning around this is that the site has 21 individual items of refrigeration on site. The Bref food, Drink and Milk document encourages the use of such a system with respect to energy efficiency and use of raw materials. This system will allow the operator to show energy efficiency and usage of ammonia/R404a per year. This should enable the operator to plan preventative maintenance.

Emission limits

No emission limits have been added, amended or deleted as a result of this variation.

Monitoring has not changed as a result of this variation.

Management system

We are not aware of any 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.

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 grant this permit variation.

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.