# Review of an Environmental Permit for an Installation subject to Chapter II of the Industrial Emissions Directive under the Environmental Permitting (England & Wales) Regulations 2016 (as amended)

## Decision document recording our decision-making process following review of a permit

The Permit number is: EPR/BW9824IC The Operator is: AB Agri Limited

The Installation is: Sherburn in Elmet Animal Feed Mill

This Variation Notice number is: EPR/BW9824IC/V005

#### What this document is about

Article 21(3) of the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) requires the Environment Agency to review conditions in permits that it has issued and to ensure that the permit delivers compliance with relevant standards, within four years of the publication by the European Commission of updated decisions on best available techniques (BAT) Conclusions.

We have reviewed the permit for this installation against the BAT Conclusions for the Food, Drink and Milk Industries published on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2019 in the Official Journal of the European Union. In this decision document, we set out the reasoning for the consolidated variation notice that we have issued.

It explains how we have reviewed and considered the techniques used by the Operator in the operation and control of the plant and activities of the installation. It is our record of our decision-making process and shows how we have taken into account all relevant factors in reaching our position.

As well as considering the review of the operating techniques used by the Operator for the operation of the plant and activities of the installation, the consolidated variation notice takes into account and brings together in a single document all previous variations that relate to the original permit issue. Where this has not already been done, it also modernises the entire permit to reflect the conditions contained in our current generic permit template.

The introduction of new template conditions makes the Permit consistent with our current general approach and with other permits issued to Installations in this sector. Although the wording of some conditions has changed, while others have been deleted because of the new regulatory approach, it does not reduce the level of environmental protection achieved by the Permit in any way. In this document, we therefore address only our determination of substantive issues relating to the new BAT Conclusions and any changes to the operation of the installation.

We try to explain our decision as accurately, comprehensively and plainly as possible. Achieving all three objectives is not always easy, and we would welcome any feedback as to how we might improve our decision documents in future.

#### How this document is structured

- 1. Our decision
- 2. How we reached our decision
- 3. The legal framework
- 4. Annex 1 Review of operating techniques within the Installation against BAT Conclusions.
- 5. Annex 2 Review and assessment of changes that are not part of the BAT Conclusions derived permit review
- 6. Annex 3 Improvement Conditions

#### 1 Our decision

We have decided to issue the Variation Notice to the Operator. This will allow the Operator to continue to operate the Installation, subject to the conditions in the Consolidated Variation Notice that updates the whole permit.

We consider that, in reaching our decision, we have taken into account all relevant considerations and legal requirements and that the varied permit will ensure that a high level of protection is provided for the environment and human health.

The Consolidated Variation Notice contains many conditions taken from our standard Environmental Permit template including the relevant annexes. We developed these conditions in consultation with industry, having regard to the legal requirements of the Environmental Permitting Regulations and other relevant legislation. This document does not therefore include an explanation for these standard conditions. Where they are included in the Notice, we have considered the techniques identified by the operator for the operation of their installation, and have accepted that the details are sufficient and satisfactory to make those standard conditions appropriate. This document does, however, provide an explanation of our use of "tailor-made" or installation-specific conditions, or where our Permit template provides two or more options.

#### 2 How we reached our decision

### 2.1 Requesting information to demonstrate compliance with BAT Conclusion techniques

We issued a Notice under Regulation 61(1) of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 (a Regulation 61 Notice) requiring the Operator to provide information to demonstrate where the operation of their installation currently meets, or how it will subsequently meet, the revised standards described in the relevant BAT Conclusions document.

The Notice required that where the revised standards are not currently met, the operator should provide information that:

- describes the techniques that will be implemented before 4 December 2023, which will then ensure that operations meet the revised standards, or
- justifies why standards will not be met by 4 December 2023, and confirmation of the date when the operation of those processes will cease within the Installation or an explanation of why the revised BAT standards are not applicable to those processes, or
- justifies why an alternative technique will achieve the same level of environmental protection equivalent to the revised BAT standards described in the BAT Conclusions.

Where the Operator proposed that they were not intending to meet a BAT standard that also included a BAT Associated Emission Level (BAT-AEL) described in the BAT Conclusions Document, the Regulation 61 Notice required that the Operator make a formal request for derogation from compliance with that BAT-AEL (as provisioned by Article 15(4) of IED). In this circumstance, the Notice identified that any such request for derogation must be supported and justified by sufficient technical and commercial information that would enable us to determine acceptability of the derogation request.

The Regulation 61 Notice response from the Operator was received on 23/07/2021.

We considered that the response did not contain sufficient information for us to commence determination of the permit review. We therefore issued a further information request to the Operator. Suitable further information was provided by the Operator on 11/01/2022.

We considered it was in the correct form and contained sufficient information for us to begin our determination of the permit review.

The Operator made no claim for commercial confidentiality. We have not received any information in relation to the Regulation 61 Notice response that appears to be confidential in relation to any party.

# 2.2 Review of our own information in respect to the capability of the Installation to meet revised standards included in the BAT Conclusions document

Based on our records and previous experience in the regulation of the installation we have no reason to consider that the Operator will not be able to comply with the techniques and standards described in the BAT Conclusions.

#### 2.3 Requests for further information during determination

Although we were able to consider the Regulation 61 Notice response generally satisfactory at receipt, we did in fact need more information in order to complete our permit review assessment, and issued a further information request on 26/01/2022. A copy of the further information request was placed on our public register.

The Operator provided a response on 21/02/2022 which included an Air Emissions Risk Assessment using the H1 methodology for the new boiler on site, response was placed on our public register.

#### 3 The legal framework

The Consolidated Variation Notice will be issued under Regulations 18 and 20 of the EPR. The Environmental Permitting regime is a legal vehicle which delivers most of the relevant legal requirements for activities falling within its scope. In particular, the regulated facility is:

- an installation as described by the IED;
- subject to aspects of other relevant legislation which also have to be addressed.

We consider that, in issuing the Consolidated Variation Notice, it will ensure that the operation of the Installation complies with all relevant legal requirements and that a high level of protection will be delivered for the environment and human health.

We explain how we have addressed specific statutory requirements more fully in the rest of this document.

#### **Annex 1: decision checklist regarding relevant BAT Conclusions**

BAT Conclusions for the Food, Drink and Milk Industries, were published by the European Commission on 4 December 2019.

There are 37 BAT Conclusions.

BAT 1 - 15 are General BAT Conclusions (Narrative BAT) applicable to all relevant Food, Drink and Milk Installations in scope.

BAT 16 – 37 are sector-specific BAT Conclusions, including Best Available Techniques Associated Emissions Levels (BAT-AELs) and Associated Environmental Performance Levels (BAT-AEPLs):

BAT 16 & 17	BAT Conclusions for Animal Feed
BAT 18 – 20	BAT Conclusions for Brewing
BAT 21 – 23	BAT Conclusions for Dairies
BAT 24	BAT Conclusions for Ethanol Production
BAT 25 & 26	BAT Conclusions for Fish and Shellfish Processing
BAT 27	BAT Conclusions for Fruit and Vegetable Processing
BAT 28	BAT Conclusions for Grain Milling
BAT 29	BAT Conclusions for Meat Processing
BAT 30 – 32	BAT Conclusions for Oilseed Processing and Vegetable Oil Refining
BAT 33	BAT Conclusions for Soft Drinks and Nectar/Fruit Juice Processed from
	Fruit and Vegetables
BAT 34	BAT Conclusions for Starch Production
BAT 35 – 37	BAT Conclusions for Sugar Manufacturing

This annex provides a record of decisions made in relation to each relevant BAT Conclusion applicable to the installation. This annex should be read in conjunction with the Consolidated Variation Notice.

The overall status of compliance with the BAT conclusion is indicated in the table as:

NA – Not Applicable CC – Currently Compliant FC – Compliant in the future (within 4 years of publication of BAT Conclusions) NC – Not Compliant

BATC No.	Summary of BAT Conclusion requirement for Food, Drink and Milk Industries	Status NA/ CC / FC / NC	Assessment of the installation capability and any alternative techniques proposed by the operator to demonstrate compliance with the BAT Conclusion requirement
	GENERAL BAT CONCLUSIONS (BAT 1-15)		
1	Environmental Management System - Improve overall environmental performance.  Implement an EMS that incorporates all the features as described within BATc 1.	СС	The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 1. We have assessed the information provided and we are satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 1.  The operator has an environment management system (EMS) which is externally accredited to the ISO14001 and ISO50001 standard.
2	EMS Inventory of inputs & outputs. Increase resource efficiency and reduce emissions.  Establish, maintain and regularly review (including when a significant change occurs) an inventory of water, energy and raw materials consumption as well as of waste water and waste gas streams, as part of the environmental management system (see BAT 1), that incorporates all of the features as detailed within the BATCs.	СС	The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 2. We have assessed the information provided and we are satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 2.  The operator is externally accredited to ISO14001 and ISO50001.  The Site holds Performance Indicator Monitoring Procedures for Water, Energy, Air Pollution; Waste Control and Disposal Procedures which form part of the National and Site EMS system. The EMS is under regular review.
3	Monitoring key process parameters at key locations for emissions to water.  For relevant emissions to water as identified by the inventory of waste water streams (see BAT 2), BAT is to monitor key process parameters (e.g. continuous monitoring of waste water flow, pH and temperature) at key locations (e.g. at the inlet and/or outlet of the pre-treatment, at the inlet to the final treatment, at the point where the emission leaves the installation).	NA	There are no discharges of process effluent arising from this installation.  Monitoring of W1 for Mercury and Cadmium has been removed from the permit as this is no longer required.

FDM Permit Review 2021 14/03/2022 Page 6 of 21

BATC No.	Summary of BAT Conclusion requirement for Food, Drink and Milk Industries	Status NA/ CC / FC / NC	Assessment of the installation capability and any alternative techniques proposed by the operator to demonstrate compliance with the BAT Conclusion requirement
			Discharges of surface water runoff and boiler blowdown via a three stage interceptor to Bishop's Dyke, boiler blowdown emissions are being diverted to foul sewer in accordance with IC9.
			Discharge of vehicle wash to sewer via a three stage interceptor.
			Annual sampling is undertaken to demonstrate compliance against the limits within the Trade Effluent Discharge Consent with sewerage undertaker (Yorkshire Water).
4	Monitoring emissions to water to the required frequencies and standards.  BAT is to monitor emissions to water with at least the frequency	NA	There are no discharges of process effluent arising from this installation.
	given [refer to BAT 4 table in BATc] and in accordance with EN standards. If EN standards are not available, BAT is to use ISO, national or other international standards that ensure the provision of data of an equivalent scientific quality.		Annual sampling is undertaken to demonstrate compliance against the limits within the Trade Effluent Discharge Consent with sewerage undertaker (Yorkshire Water).
5	Monitoring channelled emissions to air to the required frequencies and standards.  BAT is to monitor channelled emissions to air with at least the frequency given and in accordance with EN standards.	cc	The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 5. We have assessed the information provided and we are satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 5.
			The site undertakes annual MCERTS testing of air emissions for total particulates from coolers and grinders using an approved contractor following EN 13284-1 standard.
			The requirement for annual monitoring of particulates has been included in the permit in order to ensure compliance with BATc 5.

FDM Permit Review 2021 14/03/2022 Page 7 of 21

BATC No.	Summary of BAT Conclusion requirement for Food, Drink and Milk Industries	Status NA/ CC / FC / NC	Assessment of the installation capability and any alternative techniques proposed by the operator to demonstrate compliance with the BAT Conclusion requirement
6	Energy Efficiency In order to increase energy efficiency, BAT is to use an energy efficiency plan (BAT 6a) and an appropriate combination of the common techniques listed in technique 6b within the table in the BATc.	CC	The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 6. We have assessed the information provided and we are satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 6.  The operator is externally accredited to ISO50001.
7	Water and wastewater minimisation In order to reduce water consumption and the volume of waste water discharged, BAT is to use BAT 7a and one or a combination of the techniques b to k given below.  (a) water recycling and/or reuse (b) Optimisation of water flow (c) Optimisation of water nozzles and hoses (d) Segregation of water streams Techniques related to cleaning operations: (e) Dry cleaning (f) Pigging system for pipes (g) High-pressure cleaning (h) Optimisation of chemical dosing and water use in cleaning-in-place (CIP) (i) Low-pressure foam and/or gel cleaning (j) Optimised design and construction of equipment and process areas (k) Cleaning of equipment as soon as possible	CC	The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 7. We have assessed the information provided and we are satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 7.  Animal Feed Manufacture is essentially a dry process, with low water usage and limited potential for water saving and application of BAT techniques.  The site uses a recirculation system to recycle boiler water, and utilises dry cleaning techniques such as vacuuming.

FDM Permit Review 2021 14/03/2022 Page 8 of 21

BATC No.	Summary of BAT Conclusion requirement for Food, Drink and Milk Industries	Status NA/ CC / FC / NC	Assessment of the installation capability and any alternative techniques proposed by the operator to demonstrate compliance with the BAT Conclusion requirement
8	Prevent or reduce the use of harmful substances In order to prevent or reduce the use of harmful substances, e.g. in cleaning and disinfection, BAT is to use one or a combination of the techniques given below.  (a) Proper selection of cleaning chemicals and/or disinfectants (b) Reuse of cleaning chemicals in cleaning-in-place (CIP) (c) Dry cleaning (d) Optimised design and construction of equipment and process areas	CC	The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 8. We have assessed the information provided and we are satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 8.  For bio-security purposes, vehicle mats are used to disinfect wheels at the site, the disinfectants used in this process are DEFRA approved for agricultural use. The Operator uses limited volumes of disinfectant; ensures the disinfectant is either absorbed or evaporated; and that no leaks or spills outside of the vehicle mat boundary occurs.  Disinfectant Virkon S is stored as a concentrated powder and diluted on site. The dilution ratio is 1:100 which provides Virkon S at 1%, the powder is dissolved in an IBC with secondary containment/ bunded (110% capacity) and spillage kits must be made available in the vicinity.  The Operator has a quality assurance document and risk assessments which include these control measures.
9	Refrigerants In order to prevent emissions of ozone-depleting substances and of substances with a high global warming potential from cooling and freezing, BAT is to use refrigerants without ozone depletion potential and with a low global warming potential.	NA	There is no refrigerants used on site.
10	Resource efficiency In order to increase resource efficiency, BAT is to use one or a combination of the techniques given below:  (a) Anaerobic digestion	cc	The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 10. We have assessed the information provided and we are satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 10.

FDM Permit Review 2021 14/03/2022 Page 9 of 21

BATC No.	Summary of BAT Conclusion requirement for Food, Drink and Milk Industries	Status NA/ CC / FC / NC	Assessment of the installation capability and any alternative techniques proposed by the operator to demonstrate compliance with the BAT Conclusion requirement
	(b) Use of residues (c) Separation of residues (d) Recovery and reuse of residues from the pasteuriser (e) Phosphorus recovery as struvite (f) Use of waste water for land spreading		Suitable waste streams are subject to anaerobic digestion; residues and by products from process manufacture are reworked into the process subject to quality assurance procedures for feed safety.
11	Waste water buffer storage In order to prevent uncontrolled emissions to water, BAT is to provide an appropriate buffer storage capacity for waste water.	NA	The discharge volumes from this installation are low, the minimal process effluent produced is discharged to sewer, additional buffer storage capacity is not applicable.  However, the site has 3 stage interceptors on the discharge for surface water runoff and boiler blow down which discharges to surface water and the vehicle wash which routes to foul sewer.
12	Emissions to water – treatment In order to reduce emissions to water, BAT is to use an appropriate combination of the techniques given below. Preliminary, primary and general treatment (a) Equalisation (b) Neutralisation (c) Physical separate (eg screens, sieves, primary settlement tanks etc) Aerobic and/or anaerobic treatment (secondary treatment) (d) Aerobic and/or anaerobic treatment (eg activated sludge, aerobic lagoon etc) (e) Nitification and/or denitrification (f) Partial nitration - anaerobic ammonium oxidation	NA	The discharge volumes from this installation are low, and no process effluent is produced.

FDM Permit Review 2021 14/03/2022 Page 10 of 21

BATC No.	Summary of BAT Conclusion requirement for Food, Drink and Milk Industries	Status NA/ CC / FC / NC	Assessment of the installation capability and any alternative techniques proposed by the operator to demonstrate compliance with the BAT Conclusion requirement
13	Phosphorus recovery and/or removal  (g) Phosphorus recovery as struvite  (h) Precipitation  (i) Enhanced biological phosphorus removal  Final solids removal  (j) Coagulation and flocculation  (k) Sedimentation  (l) Filtration (eg sand filtration, microfiltration, ultrafiltration)  (m) Flotation  Noise management plan  In order to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce noise emissions, BAT is to set up, implement and regularly review a noise management plan, as part of the environmental management system (see BAT 1), that includes all of the following elements:  - a protocol containing actions and timelines;  - a protocol for conducting noise emissions monitoring;  - a protocol for response to identified noise events, eg complaints;  - a noise reduction programme designed to identify the source(s), to measure/estimate noise and vibration exposure, to characterise the contributions of the sources and to implement prevention and/or reduction measures.	NA	BAT 13 is only applicable to cases where a noise nuisance at sensitive receptors is expected and/or has been substantiated, or if forms part of an existing permit requirement.  There is no existing permit requirement and the site has no recent history of noise complaints therefore a noise management plan is not required.
14	Noise management	СС	The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 14. We have assessed the information provided and we are

FDM Permit Review 2021 14/03/2022 Page 11 of 21

BATC No.	Summary of BAT Conclusion requirement for Food, Drink and Milk Industries	Status NA/ CC / FC / NC	Assessment of the installation capability and any alternative techniques proposed by the operator to demonstrate compliance with the BAT Conclusion requirement
	In order to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce noise emissions, BAT is to use one or a combination of the techniques given below.  (a) Appropriate location of equipment and buildings  (b) Operational measures  (c) Low-noise equipment  (d) Noise control equipment  (e) Noise abatement		satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 14.  Operator uses a combination of relevant procedures:  - Using inherently quieter machinery and processes;  - Enclosing noisy machinery and processes in buildings or acoustic enclosures;  - Cladding with acoustic panelling and impact deadening;  - Fitting attenuators on noisy airflows;  - Diffusing and slowing high speed and high pressure discharges, e.g. silencers on boiler pressure relief valves;  - Fitting vibration isolation mounts;  - Regularly maintaining the plant and machinery;  - Moving noisy plant further away from site boundaries and sensitive receptors;  - Restricting noisy activities to daytime hours; and  - Use of mounds or barriers to contain or deflect the noise.
15	Odour Management In order to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce odour emissions, BAT is to set up, implement and regularly review an odour management plan, as part of the environmental management system (see BAT 1), that includes all of the following elements:  - a protocol containing actions and timelines;  - a protocol for conducting odour monitoring.  - a protocol for response to identified odour incidents eg complaints;  - an odour prevention and reduction programme designed to identify the source(s); to measure/estimate odour exposure: to	NA	BAT 15 is only applicable to cases where an odour nuisance at sensitive receptors is expected and/or has been substantiated, or if forms part of an existing permit requirement.  There is no existing permit requirement and the site has no recent history of odour complaints therefore an odour management plan is not required.

FDM Permit Review 2021 14/03/2022 Page 12 of 21

BATC No.					od, Drink and	Status NA/ CC / FC / NC	Assessment of the installation capability and any alternative techniques proposed by the operator to demonstrate compliance with the BAT Conclusion requirement
		the contributi nd/or reductio		urces; and to	implement		
	ANIMAL FE	ED BAT CON	ICLUSIONS	(BAT 16-17)			
16	In order to in BAT is to use specified in E  (a) Use of pr  (b) Recycling  (c) Use of war	ergy efficiency – Green fodder only order to increase energy efficiency in green fodder processing, T is to use an appropriate combination of the techniques ecified in BAT 6 and of the techniques given below. Use of predried fodder Recycling of waste gas from the dryer Use of waste heat for pre-drying elicable in addition to BAT6		NA	Not applicable for this site.		
17	7 Emissions to air – particulates In order to reduce channelled dust emissions to air, BAT is to us one of the techniques given; a. bag filter, b. cyclone.  Parameter Specific Unit BAT-AEL (average over the		T-AEL e over the	СС	Grinders The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 17. We have assessed the information provided and we are satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 17.		
				New plants	Existing plants		There are no existing emission limit value (ELV) for the grinders for particulate emissions. As these are existing plants we believe it is appropriate to set the new ELV at the top of the range. An ELV of 10mg/Nm³ will be included in the varied permit to ensure compliance
	Dust	Grinding Pellet cooling	mg/Nm³	<2-5 <2-20	<2-10		with the BAT-AEL.  Monitoring data suggests the operator can comply with the revised ELV of 10 mg/Nm³ now, therefore we are including this limit within the

FDM Permit Review 2021 14/03/2022 Page 13 of 21

BATC No.	Summary of BAT Conclusion requirement for Food, Drink and Milk Industries	Status NA/ CC / FC / NC	Assessment of the installation capability and any alternative techniques proposed by the operator to demonstrate compliance with the BAT Conclusion requirement
			permit from date of issue and are choosing to not future date this BAT AEL.  Pellet Coolers The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 17. The existing ELV for the pellet coolers is 50 mg/Nm³ for particulate emissions.  For coolers 1, 2 and 3 the operator monitoring data suggests the operator can achieve BAT-AELs and has been within range for a number of years. The operator replaced cooler 4 in September 2021 and new emissions monitoring results demonstrate it is achieving BAT-AEL. Evidence from the other coolers on site indicate that there should be no issue with this cooler continuing to achieving BAT-AEL.  The monitoring data suggest the coolers can comply with an ELV of 20 mg/Nm³, therefore we are including this limit within the permit from date of issue and we are choosing to not future date this BAT-AEL.
	Animal Feed Environmental Performance Levels		

FDM Permit Review 2021 14/03/2022 Page 14 of 21

BATC No.	Summary of BAT C Milk Industries	Conclusion requiremen	t for Food, Drink and	Status NA/ CC / FC / NC	Assessment of the installation capability and any alternative techniques proposed by the operator to demonstrate compliance with the BAT Conclusion requirement
	Environmental Per Animal Feed	formance Level – Ener	gy Consumption for	СС	The operator has provided information to support compliance with the energy EPL. We have assessed the information provided and we are
	Product	Unit	Specific energy consumption (yearly average)		satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with the energy consumption for Animal Feed.  The compound food figure of 0.01-0.10 is appropriate for this
	Compound food	MWh/tonne of	0.01-0.10 (1)(2)(3)		installation.
臣	Dry pet food	products	0.39-0.50		The operators specific energy consumption average for 2020 – 2021 was 0.07 MWh/t, which is within the target, reflecting good energy management in place at this installation.
'	Wet pet food		0.33-0.85		
	(2) The specific energy are used as raw m (3) The upper end of	the range can be achieved when pelleting consumption level may not apply whe naterial.  the range is 0.12 MWh/tonne of product the neat treatment is used for Salmonelline.	n fish and other aquatic animals		
	Environmental performance level – Waste water discharge for Animal Feed			NA	Not applicable – dry process only.
臣	Product	Unit	Specific waste water discharge (yearly average)		
	Wet pet food	m3/tonne of products	1.3-2.4		

FDM Permit Review 2021 14/03/2022 Page 15 of 21

### Annex 2: Review and assessment of changes that are not part of the BAT Conclusions derived permit review

#### Updating permit during permit review consolidation

- Activity name
- Introductory note
- Site plan
- Table S1.1 overhaul
  - o Activity Reference (AR) renumbering
  - Updated listed activities
  - Addition of production capacity
  - Directly associated activities (DAAs) standardisation

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

#### Capacity Threshold

The Environment Agency is looking to draw a "line in the sand" for permitted production capacity; a common understanding between the Operator and regulator for the emissions associated with a (maximum) level of production, whereby the maximum emissions have been demonstrated as causing no significant environmental impact.

We have included a permitted production level (capacity) within table S1.1 of the permit for the section 6.8 listed activity and we need to be confident that the level of emissions associated with this production level have been demonstrated to be acceptable.

The H1 assessment is not valid for the maximum capacity stated within the permit or if production is now higher. We have included an improvement condition within the permit (IC8) which requires the operator to revisit their H1 risk assessment for particulate emissions to air at the capacity limit figure that is now stated within table S1.1 of the permit.

#### **Emissions to Air**

We asked the operator to list all emission points to air from the installation in the Regulation 61 notice. And to provide a site plan indicating the locations of all air emission points.

The operator has provided an up to date air emission plan.

# Implementing the requirements of the Medium Combustion Plant Directive We asked the Operator to provide information on all combustion plant on site in the Regulation 61 Notice as follows:

- Number of combustion plant (CHP engines, back-up generators, boilers);
- Size of combustion plant rated thermal input (MWth)
- Date each combustion plant came into operation

The Operator provided the information in the table(s) below:

#### **Boilers**

Rated thermal input (MW) of the medium combustion plant.	2.8 MWth
2. Type of the medium combustion plant (diesel engine, gas turbine, dual fuel engine, other engine or other medium combustion plant).	Boiler
3. Type and share of fuels used according to the fuel categories laid down in Annex II.	Natural Gas
4. Date of the start of the operation of the medium combustion plant or, where the exact date of the start of the operation is unknown, proof of the fact that the operation started before 20 December 2018.	September 2020

We have reviewed the information provided and we consider that the declared combustion plant qualify as "new" medium combustion plant.

The operator has provided a revised risk assessment using the Environment Agency's H1 software tool for the following emissions A19. The assessment shows that, applying the conservative criteria in our guidance on environmental risk assessment, all emissions may be screened out as environmentally insignificant.

We have included the appropriate emission limit values for new medium combustion plant as part of this permit review. See Table S3.1 in the permit. We have also included a new condition 3.1.4 within the permit which specifies the monitoring requirements for the combustion plant in accordance with the MCPD.

#### **Particulate Emissions**

BAT-AELs are derived for those substances identified as key environmental issues during the BREF review process.

If the operator has identified current compliance against BAT-AELs we will implement the relevant emission limit value (ELV) from the date of permit issue. This is relevant for emission points A1, A2, A3, A4, A5 and A6 against BAT 17 for particulate emissions from the coolers/grinders.

We have added an improvement condition (IC7) for size fractionation of particulate emissions because a BAT-AEL applies for dust emissions to air. The justification for this IC is that there are a number of activities within the FDM sector which may result in release of particulates to air e.g. drying, milling and grinding. Overall there is little available information on how much fine particulates are released. This IC is a one-off exercise requiring operators to monitor and report on the fractions of fine particulate (PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>) emissions and increase our understanding of potential health effects. Where BAT-AELS may apply to multiple emission points e.g. grain milling, we may accept limited representative monitoring rather than expecting them to monitor every single emission point.

### Emissions to Water and implementing the requirements of the Water Framework Directive

We asked the Operator to provide information on all emissions to water at the installation in the Regulation 61 Notice as follows;

- Identify any effluents which discharge directly to surface or groundwater;
- Provide an assessment of volume and quality, including results of any monitoring data available;
- and for any discharges to water / soakaway whether a recent assessment of the feasibility of connection to sewer has been carried out.

The operator has previously provided assessments for all emissions to water at the installation. The operator declares there has been no change to activities and subsequent effluents generated at the installation since this risk assessment was taken. Consequently, we agree that the original risk assessments remain valid at this time.

The Operator themselves identified that the continued discharge of boiler blowdown to groundwater may not be a sustainable option and that they plan to divert the boiler blowdown emissions (W1) to foul sewer. On that basis, we have included IC9 for the operator confirm boiler blowdown has been diverted to foul sewer.

#### Soil & groundwater risk assessment (baseline report)

The IED requires that the operator of any IED installation using, producing or releasing "relevant hazardous substances" (RHS) shall, having regarded the possibility that they might cause pollution of soil and groundwater, submit a "baseline report" with its permit application. The baseline report is an important reference document in the assessment of contamination that might arise during the operational lifetime of the regulated facility and at cessation of activities. It must enable a quantified comparison to be made between the baseline and the state of the site at surrender.

At the definitive cessation of activities, the Operator has to satisfy us that the necessary measures have been taken so that the site ceases to pose a risk to soil or groundwater, taking into account both the baseline conditions and the site's current or approved future use. To do this, the Operator has to submit a surrender application to us, which we will not grant unless and until we are satisfied that these requirements have been met.

The Operator submitted a site condition report 'ABNA Ltd – Sherburn-in-Elmet: PPC Permit Application Site Report' during the original application received on 30/03/2005. The site also submitted an 'Environmental Assessment Report' during the original application which included ground investigations to determine the baseline conditions as required by Article 22. We reviewed that report and considered that it adequately described the condition of the soil and groundwater at that time.

The Operator submitted a summary report which referenced the site condition report and baseline report. We have reviewed the information and we consider that it adequately describes the current condition of the soil and groundwater. Consequently, we are satisfied that the baseline conditions have not changed.

#### **Hazardous Substances**

Hazardous substances are those defined in Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No. 1272/2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures

The operator has provided a short risk assessment on the hazardous substances stored and used at the installation. The risk assessment was a stage 1-3 assessment as detailed within EC Commission Guidance 2014/C 136/03.

The stage 1 assessment identified the hazardous substances used / stored on site. The stage 2 assessment identified if hazardous substances are capable of causing pollution. If they are capable of causing pollution they are then termed Relevant Hazardous Substances (RHS). The Stage 3 assessment identified if pollution prevention measures are fit for purpose in areas where hazardous substances are used / stored. This includes drains as well.

The outcomes of the three stage assessment identified that pollution of soil and/or ground water to be unlikely.

#### **Climate Change Adaptation**

The operator has identified the installation as likely to be or has been affected by flooding, which we consider to be a severe weather event.

The operator has submitted a climate change risk assessment which considers, as a minimum the impact of severe weather on the operations within the installation.

We consider the climate change adaptation risk assessment to be appropriate for the installation.

#### **Underground Structures**

The operator has confirmed there are no underground structures at the installation.

#### **Annex 3: Improvement Conditions**

Based on the information in the Operator's Regulation 61 Notice response and our own records of the capability and performance of the installation at this site, we consider that we need to set improvement conditions so that the outcome of the techniques detailed in the BAT Conclusions are achieved by the installation. These improvement conditions are set out below - justifications for them is provided at the relevant section of the decision document (Annex 1 or Annex 2).

Superseded Improvement Conditions – Removed from permit as marked as "complete"			
Reference	Improvement condition		
IC2	The Operator shall carry out an assessment of the options available for the disposal of the boiler blowdown (excluding discharges to controlled waters, soakaways or land). A written report summarising the findings and timescales for implementation shall be submitted to the Agency for approval.		
IC3	The Operator shall submit to the Agency written details of the extent, age, construction details and condition of hardstanding throughout the Site (defined in Permit Condition 1.2.1), and shall carry out any works necessary to repair or extend the hardstanding so as to ensure that the land (most notably the gravel lined area) and groundwaters are protected from potential leaks and spills of potential polluting substances. The nature of any works, and the timetable for implementation, shall be agreed in writing with the Agency in advance of implementation		
IC4	The Operator shall develop a odour management plan. The plan shall be developed, making reference to relevant guidance including the Agency's Odour Horizontal Guidance Note H4 and shall detail the odour control and monitoring measures that are to be employed at the site.  A written report detailing the odour management plan shall be submitted to the Agency for approval.		
IC5	The Operator shall carry out an assessment of the measures in place within the installation to ensure that the Bishop's dyke through emission point W1 can only receive uncontaminated surface water and cannot be impacted by contaminated firewater, cleaning chemicals and minor spills of polluting liquids from the process. A report detailing the findings of the assessment, recommendations for improvements to the surfacing, kerbing and bunding together with an implementation timetable shall be submitted to the Agency for approval.		
IC6	The Operator shall provide the Agency with a written report detailing the feasibility of recycling water within the process.		

Improvement programme requirements			
Reference	Reason for inclusion	Justification of deadline	
IC7	The Operator shall submit a written report to the Environment Agency of monitoring carried out to determine the size distribution of particulate matter in the exhaust gas emissions to air from emission points A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, and A6, identifying the fractions within the PM10 and PM2.5 ranges. The monitoring shall be carried out under representative operating conditions and shall be in accordance with EN ISO 23210 unless otherwise agreed with the Environment Agency.	14/03/2023 or other date as agreed in writing with the Environment Agency	
IC8	The operator shall review and update the H1 risk assessment for particulate emissions to air at the capacity levels stated within table S1.1 of this permit. The H1 shall be submitted to the Environment Agency for review.	14/03/2023 or other date as agreed in writing with the Environment Agency	
IC9	The operator shall provide evidence to confirm the boiler blowdown wastewater stream (W1) has been diverted to foul sewer, currently discharged to Bishop's Dyke (surface water).	04/12/2022 or other date as agreed in writing with the Environment Agency	