

Permitting Decisions - Variation

We have decided to grant the variation for Cranswick Convenience Foods Limited operated by Cranswick Convenience Foods Limited.

The variation number is EPR/FP3831TS/V005

The variation is for addition of a Combined Heat and Power (CHP) unit which was installed in 2018, removal of emission points and associated plant, increasing the size of an onsite building to allow for refrigeration equipment to be stored. The increase in the building size will not impact the throughput of the site and will not increase the extent of refrigeration on site.

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 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

The operator is running a 1.2MWth CHP installed in 2018. The benefits include the CHP being significantly more energy efficient than a generator, it emits significantly less carbon dioxide compared to a generator and has greater electrical resilience. The operator also wishes to update the permit to modern consolidated permit and to extend the size of a single building in order to increase its storage capacity.

Demonstration of Best Available Techniques

The operator provided a BAT assessment titled 'Appendix C) BAT - Assessment - for - Variation', which demonstrated that the operator has considered the changes applied for in-line with BAT conclusions for the Food Drink and Milk sector. The operator has considered BAT in terms of Environmental Management Systems, Resource Efficiency, Energy Efficiency, Inventory of monitoring, odour and noise minimization and inventory of water, energy, and raw materials consumption as well as of wastewater and waste gas streams.

Air Quality Assessment

The operator has provided detailed air dispersion modelling undertaken by Bureau Veritas. The report is titled 'Environmental Monitoring Solutions Ltd, Cranswick Foods, Milton Keynes 0 Environmental Permit Application - Air Dispersion Modelling Report, December 2022'. The atmospheric emissions dispersion modelling study was undertaken using ADMS 5.2 version.

We have audited the air quality modelling report, as a result of our checks, we agree with the consultant's numerical value of process contributions. On their comparison with the relevant Environmental Standards, it is found that the impact of the contributions from the site is not significant on human health and insignificant to ecological receptors. The contributions from the site will not exceed the relevant critical levels and loads.

The overall conclusion is that the environmental risk is low from the inclusion of the CHP fuelled by natural gas to the installation. Therefore, there should be no exceedances of the relevant Environmental Standards.

Decision considerations

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 regulated facility

We considered the extent and nature of the facility at the site in accordance with RGN2 'Understanding the meaning of regulated facility', Appendix 2 of RGN2 'Defining the scope of the installation', and Appendix 1 of RGN 2 'Interpretation of Schedule 1'.

The operator has provided the grid reference for the emission point from the medium combustion plant.

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

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

The plan is included in the permit.

Nature conservation, landscape, heritage and protected species and habitat designations

We have checked the location of the application to assess if it is within the screening distances we consider relevant for impacts on nature conservation, landscape, heritage and protected species and habitat designations. The application is within our screening distances for these designations.

We have assessed the application and its potential to affect sites of nature conservation, landscape, heritage and protected species and habitat designations identified in the nature conservation screening report as part of the permitting process.

We consider that the application will not affect any site of nature conservation, landscape and heritage, and/or protected species or habitats identified.

We have not consulted Natural England.

The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance.

Environmental risk

We have reviewed the operator's assessment of the environmental risk from the facility.

The operator's risk assessment is satisfactory.

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.

Operating techniques for emissions that do not screen out as insignificant

Emissions of Oxides of Nitrogen cannot be screened out as insignificant. We have assessed whether the proposed techniques are Best Available Techniques (BAT).

The proposed techniques/ emission levels for emissions that do not screen out as insignificant are in line with the techniques and benchmark levels contained in the technical guidance and we consider them to represent appropriate techniques for the facility. The permit conditions enable compliance with relevant FDM BAT Conclusions and MCPD guidelines.

Operating techniques for emissions that screen out as insignificant

Emissions of Carbon Monoxide have been screened out as insignificant, and so we agree that the applicant's proposed techniques are Best Available Techniques (BAT) for the installation.

We consider that the emission limits included in the installation permit reflect the BAT for the sector.

National Air Pollution Control Programme

We have considered the National Air Pollution Control Programme as required by the National Emissions Ceilings Regulations 2018. By setting emission limit values in line with technical guidance we are minimising emissions to air. This will aid the delivery of national air quality targets. We do not consider that we need to include any additional conditions in this permit.

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 permits.

Emission limits

Emission Limit Values (ELVs) based on Medium Combustion Plant Directive have been added for the following substance:

Oxides of Nitrogen (NO_x) – 190 mg/m³ - for emission point A7

Monitoring

We have decided that monitoring should be added for the following parameters, using the methods detailed and to the frequencies specified:

Oxides of Nitrogen (NO_x) - for emission point A7

Carbon Monoxide (CO) - for emission point A7

Based on the information in the application we are satisfied that the operator's techniques, personnel and equipment have either MCERTS certification or MCERTS accreditation as appropriate.

We made these decisions in accordance with Medium Combustion Plant Directive.

Reporting

We have added reporting in the permit for the following parameters:

Oxides of Nitrogen (NO_x) - for emission point A7

Carbon Monoxide (CO) - for emission point A7

We made these decisions in accordance with Medium Combustion Plant Directive.

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.