

## Permitting decisions- Surrender

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We have decided to accept the surrender of the permit for Overton Paper Mill operated by Portals De La Rue Limited.

The permit number is EPR/YP3536JE

We are satisfied that the necessary measures have been taken to avoid any pollution risk and to return the site to a satisfactory state. We consider in reaching this decision that we have taken into account all relevant considerations and legal requirements.

### 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.

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

### Key issues of the decision

#### **Poly- and perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)**

Delta Simons Phase 2 Gio-Environmental Assessment, 22 September 2022, indicated concentrations of PFAS within the permit boundary, greater than those found in the surrounding area.

We required the operator to provide further information concerning the levels of PFAS.

The operator reviewed the historic use of materials that could contribute to the levels of PFAS and commissioned further sampling and analysis of the lagoon sediments.

The operator reported that PFAS containing material was not used within the permitted process. This was confirmed by the lagoon sediment samples that were all reported to be at the limit of detection.

The operator's conclusion is that the PFAS levels are historic and not related to the permitted activity.

We agree with the operator's conclusion.

## **Chloride**

Southern Water have reported elevated levels of chloride in the drinking water in the area.

We required the operator to provide further information concerning the levels of chloride.

The operator carried out a review of potential sources of chloride. The review concluded that the permitted activity is unlikely to be the source of the chloride.

We agree with the operator's conclusion.

## **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.

### **Pollution risk**

We are satisfied that the necessary measures have been taken to avoid a pollution risk resulting from the operation of the regulated facility.

### **Satisfactory state**

We are satisfied that the necessary measures have been taken to return the site of the regulated facility to a satisfactory state, having regard to the state of the site before the facility was put into operation.

### **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 accept this permit surrender.