

Permitting Decisions - Variation

We have decided to grant the variation for Piddlehinton AD Facility operated by Eco Sustainable Solutions Limited.

The variation number is EPR/FP3692SU/V004.

This variation authorises the change of the facility from an existing waste operation to a bespoke installation operation. The change increases the treatment capacity of the anaerobic digestion (AD) plant to over 100 tonnes per day. The annual accepted tonnage has been increased from 42,000 tonnes per annum to 50,000 tonnes per annum. The list of waste codes has been revised to ensure they are all suitable for the proposed activities. A new flare and back-up generator have been added to the emission points.

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 facility is changing from a waste operation to an installation. The site is now subject to operating according to BAT (Best Available Techniques). All the conditions of the waste permit have been replaced by those in the current generic installations template. The new conditions will provide a higher level of protection than those in the previous permit. The site is required to meet BAT upon permit issue.

Decision considerations

Confidential information

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

Identifying confidential information

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

Consultation

The consultation requirements were identified in accordance with the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations (2016) and our public participation statement.

The comments and our responses are summarised in the [consultation responses](#) section.

The application was publicised on the GOV.UK website.

We consulted the following organisations:

Dorset Council

UK Health Security Agency

Director of Public Health (Dorset)

Food Standards Agency

Health and Safety Executive

Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service

The National Grid

The comments and our responses are summarised in the [consultation responses](#) section.

The site

The operator has provided a plan which we consider to be satisfactory. This shows the extent of the site of the facility including the discharge points. 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 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.

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.

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.

Fire prevention plan

We haven't requested a Fire Prevention Plan at this time, but we will request one in the future if we consider the site poses a risk of fire.

Raw materials

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

Waste types

We have specified the permitted waste types, descriptions and quantities, which can be accepted at the regulated facility.

We are satisfied that the operator can accept these wastes for the following reasons:

- they are suitable for the proposed activities
- the proposed infrastructure is appropriate; and
- the environmental risk assessment is acceptable.

The operator requested the removal of a number of a number of waste codes from the existing permit on the basis that they are not included in Appendix B of the Anaerobic Digestion Quality Protocol (ADQP). We have also removed a

number of waste codes as they are not appropriate for the anaerobic digestion process. The removed waste codes are listed in the table below:

Waste code	Description
02	Wastes from agriculture, horticulture, aquaculture, forestry, hunting and fishing, food preparation and processing
02 07	wastes from the production of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages (except coffee, tea and cocoa)
02 07 05	sludges from on-site effluent treatment
03	Wastes from wood processing and the production of panels and furniture, pulp, paper and cardboard
03 03	wastes from pulp, paper and cardboard production and processing
03 03 02	green liquor sludge (from recovery of cooking liquor)
03 03 08	wastes from sorting of paper and cardboard destined for recycling
03 03 10	fibre rejects, fibre-, filler- and coating-sludges from mechanical separation
04	Wastes from the leather, fur and textile industries
04 01	wastes from the leather and fur industry
04 01 01	fleshings and lime split wastes
04 01 05	tanning liquor free of chromium
04 01 07	sludges, in particular from on-site effluent treatment free of chromium
15	Waste packaging, absorbents, wiping cloths, filter materials and protective clothing not otherwise specified
15 01	packaging (including separately collected municipal packaging waste)
15 01 02	plastic packaging
19	Wastes from waste management facilities, off-site waste water treatment plants and the preparation of water intended for human consumption and water for industrial use
19 05	wastes from aerobic treatment of solid wastes
19 05 01	non-composted fraction of municipal and similar wastes
19 05 02	non-composted fraction of animal and vegetable waste
19 05 03	off-specification compost
20	Municipal wastes (household waste and similar commercial, industrial and institutional wastes) including separately collected fractions
20 01	separately collected fractions (except 15 01)
20 01 38	wood other than that mentioned in 20 01 37

Improvement programme

We have included a number of improvement conditions in the permit so that the outcome of the techniques detailed in the Waste Treatment BREF/BAT conclusions are demonstrated as achieved by the operator.

Improvement condition 1 – review of effectiveness of abatement plant

There are two biofilters installed at the facility. This improvement condition requires the operator to review the abatement plant on site, in order to determine whether existing measures have been effective and adequate to prevent and /or minimise emissions released to air. Where further improvements are identified, the operator is required to implement these measures.

Improvement conditions 2a and 2b – assessment of methane slip

We have temporarily removed the need to monitor emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from the combustion of biogas in gas engines. We have included improvement conditions 2a and 2b in the permit which require the operator to assess methane emissions in the exhaust from engines burning biogas. Following an assessment of the data, the Environment Agency shall consider whether or not emission limits for volatile organic compounds are applicable for this installation. The operator also needs to establish a site-specific leak detection and repair (LDAR) programme to detect and mitigate the release of VOCs including methane from diffuse sources.

Please refer to Table S1.3 of the permit for further details.

Emission Limits

We have decided that emission limits are required in the permit. Emission Limit Values (ELVs) and technical measures based on Best Available Techniques (BAT) have been included for the following substances:

CHP engines fuelled on biogas

- Nitrogen oxides
- Sulphur dioxide
- Carbon monoxide

Biofilters

- Ammonia

Emergency Flare Stack

- Nitrogen oxides

- Carbon monoxide
- Total VOCs

The current waste permit included a minimum stack exit velocity of 15m/s to ensure effective plume breakaway. This control measure has been removed because it is no longer a stipulation in our current biowaste permit template. The exit velocity requirement was based on a now outdated Technical Guidance Note (Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution – Technical Guidance Note (Dispersion) D1) from 1993. However, other controls that address air emissions and odour are being added - such as :

- A more robust Odour Management Plan
- The requirement to meet the relevant BAT
- IC1 which requires full review of the effectiveness of abatement plant
- Detailed process monitoring

Please refer to Table S3.1 of the permit for further details. We made these decisions in accordance with our guidance, *Biological waste treatment: appropriate measures for permitted facilities – Version published 21 September 2022*.

Monitoring

We have decided that monitoring should be carried out for the parameters listed in the permit, using the methods detailed and to the frequencies specified. These monitoring requirements have been included in order to comply with the Waste Treatment BAT Conclusions. We made these decisions in accordance with Waste Treatment BAT Conclusions.

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. Please refer to Table S3.1 of the permit for further details.

Bioaerosols monitoring requirements

We carried out an assessment of the site location and the distance of site processes from sensitive receptors as part of this determination. In addition, the site operates two open biofilters which are located within 250 metres of sensitive receptors. We consider it appropriate to insert the bioaerosols monitoring requirements in the permit in accordance with our guidance TGN M9 Environmental monitoring of bioaerosols at regulated facilities (version 2, July 2018). The operator is required to comply with the new monitoring requirements from the date of permit issue.

Reporting

We have specified reporting in the permit. We made these decisions in accordance with Waste Treatment BAT Conclusions. Please refer to Table S4.1 of the permit for further details.

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.

Financial competence

There is no known reason to consider that the operator will not be financially able to comply with the permit conditions.

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.

Consultation Responses

The following summarises the responses to consultation with other organisations, and the way in which we have considered these in the determination process.

Responses from organisations listed in the consultation section

Response received from UK Health Security Agency.

Brief summary of issues raised: “No significant concerns regarding the risk to the health of the local population from the installation.”

Summary of actions taken: The permit will have adequate measures to control for emissions such as odour, noise and pests/vermin to prevent off site impacts.