

Permitting decisions- Surrender

We have decided to accept the surrender of the permit for Seal Sands Power Station operated by RWE GENERATION UK PLC.

The permit number is EPR/CP3939QN.

The decision was issued on 20/03/2024.

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

To process this surrender as low risk, Environment Agency must confirm that an intrusive investigation is not needed.

There was a hesitation given the that permit RP3130LN appeared to have several compliance issues prior to being varied and transferred to the new permit CP3939QN. In particular, the CAR forms indicate that there was 'oily water' leaking through the bunds to ground in 2016 at the site, which we do not have a record of being addressed. The 2006 site report did include any information regarding any soils or groundwater testing. Therefore, it seems we have no prior baseline before the operation of the site prior to the 2021 IED baseline report to refer back to for the original permit.

The EA has accepted the IED baseline report provided in 2021, for which we confirmed we were happy with the locations and proposed testing of the boreholes. There have been no reported incidents at the site we are aware of that may affect groundwater and soils during the operational time of the permit, particularly within the period between 2021 IED baseline report and cessation of operations in 2022.

Area compliance officer and Ground Water and Contaminated Land officers confirmed they classified this site as low risk on 11/12/2023 and 13/03/2024 respectively.

Area team has confirmed that the Decommissioning visit/inspection was performed 16/11/2022 (CAR Ref 0441759) and is treated as the final site visit.

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.