

Permitting Decisions - Environment Agency Initiated Variation

We have decided to issue an Environment Agency initiated variation for Central Oil Reprocessing Depot operated by Electricity North West Limited following a review of the permit in accordance with Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016, regulation 34(1).

The variation number for the review is EPR/BP3038MZ/V005.

In addition to implementing the permit review, this variation also makes the following changes to the permit that were applied for by the operator under permit variation application EPR/BP3038MZ/V006.

Permit Review

This Environment Agency has a duty, under the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 (EPR), regulation 34(1), to periodically review permits. Article 21(3) of the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) also requires the Environment Agency to review conditions in permits to ensure that they deliver compliance with relevant standards, within four years of the publication of updated decisions on Best Available Techniques (BAT) Conclusions.

We have reviewed the permit for this [regulated facility and varied the permit to make a number of changes to reflect relevant standards and best practice. These changes principally relate to the implementation of our technical guidance <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/chemical-waste-appropriate-measures-for-permitted-facilities> and the relevant requirements of the [BAT Conclusions for Waste Treatment](#) which have been incorporated into our guidance.

In this decision document, we set out the reasoning for the 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 (operating techniques) against our technical guidance.

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.

Permit variation application

In addition to implementing the permit review, this variation also makes the following changes to the permit that were applied for by the operator under permit variation application EPR/BP3038MZ/V006:

- The registered address for Electricity North West has changed and is now as follows: Electricity North West, Borron Street, Stockport, England, SK1 2JD.
- Additional processing equipment comprising: “MAS 6000 TEC” Oil De-gas Unit (ODGU); “REGEN 12C” Oil Acidity Unit (OAU).
- New air emissions abatement system with new emission point, A10.
- Reduce the waste codes acceptable at the site to the following:
13 03 01*: Insulating or heat transmission oils containing PCBs
13 03 06*: Mineral-based chlorinated insulating and heat transmission oils other than those mentioned in 13 03 01
13 03 07*: Mineral-based non-chlorinated insulating and heat transmission oils
- Removal of Improvement Condition (IC9) under the existing EP. The Modular Reprocessing Unit (MRU) was not brought into operation and has since been scrapped.
- The permit boundary has been amended to account for the area under the control of the Operator. There are no waste treatment or storage operations undertaken within the additional area based on information provided by the Operator in their Application. The existing tertiary surface water containment, including the interceptors on the drainage system located in the south-east corner is now included within the permit boundary.

Purpose of this document

This decision document provides a record of the decision making process. It:

- explains how the Environment Agency initiated variation has been determined;
- summarises the decision making process in the decision considerations section to show how the main relevant factors have been taken into account;
- highlights key issues in the determination.

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

Key issues of the decision

Site boundary

The permit boundary has been extended to include the penstock valve which is used to isolate the entire site drainage.

The operator initially proposed to permit the penstock valve as a separate area. However, this was rejected as they need to include the run of pipework between the current site boundary and the new area of the penstock valve. This is not a standalone Activity and needs to be contained within the permitted site boundary.

Waste treatment capacity

The Regulation 61 Notice response states that the permitted site has the capacity to process approximately 2.4 tonnes of oil per day. This was queried with the Operator, as if the site had the capacity to process less than 10 tonnes per day, they would be a waste operation for the treatment process, rather than an Installations Activity.

However, information from the latest variation confirms the theoretical daily treatment capacity (based on an average over a period of 7 days) for the is 18 tonnes per day. This limit has been included in the permit.

Air Emission Points

The emissions to air from the site were discussed with the Operator, both in the context of the sector review and their Application to vary the permit. The site, at time of permit issue, is undertaking a trial for the abatement of their emissions to air.

Under the variation EPR/BP3038MZ/V006 Application submitted by the Operator, it was proposed to combine all site emissions to a single abated air emissions point. However, the associated system of abatement remains within an agreed trial phase, having commenced later than anticipated.

Given that the new air emissions abatement system remains under trial operation and if the site permit was to be varied to a single emissions point, there is potential that the site may risk non-compliance should results of the trial not attain the theoretical outcomes predicted.

As such several emissions points are now proposed to ensure that the site can maintain compliance whilst the trial completes. Effectively this means retaining the current emissions point set-up plus an additional emissions point resulting from the new process operations. The new system of air emissions abatement has a single emission point, A10.

Methodology:

A methodology for risk assessment of point source emissions to air is set out in our guidance - [Air emissions risk assessment for your environmental permit - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/air-emissions-risk-assessment-for-your-environmental-permit).

We use this methodology to assess the impacts on air quality in the determination of applications.

The methodology uses a concept of “process contribution (PC)”, which is the estimated concentration of emitted substances after dispersion into the receiving environmental media at the point where the magnitude of the concentration is greatest. The methodology provides a simple method of calculating PC, primarily for screening purposes, and for estimating process contributions where environmental consequences are relatively low. It is based on using dispersion factors. These factors assume worst case dispersion conditions with no allowance made for thermal or momentum plume rise and so the process contributions calculated are likely to be an overestimate of the actual maximum concentrations.

PCs are considered insignificant if:

- the long-term process contribution is less than 1% of the relevant ES; and
- the short-term process contribution is less than 10% of the relevant ES.

The long term 1% process contribution insignificance threshold is based on the judgements that:

- It is unlikely that an emission at this level will make a significant contribution to air quality; and
- the threshold provides a substantial safety margin to protect health and the environment.

The short term 10% process contribution insignificance threshold is based on the judgements that:

- spatial and temporal conditions mean that short term process contributions are transient and limited in comparison with long term process contributions; and
- the threshold provides a substantial safety margin to protect health and the environment.

Where an emission is screened out in this way, we would normally consider that the applicant’s proposals for the prevention and control of the emission to be acceptable. However, where an emission cannot be screened out as insignificant, it does not mean it will necessarily be significant.

For those pollutants which do not screen out as insignificant, we determine whether exceedances of the relevant ES are likely. This is done through detailed audit and review of the applicant's air dispersion modelling, taking background concentrations and modelling uncertainties into account.

Where the PC is greater than these thresholds, the assessment must continue to determine the impact by considering the predicted environmental concentration (PEC). The PEC is the combination of the PC substance to air and the background concentration of the substance which is already present in the environment. The PECs can be considered 'not significant' if the assessment has shown that both the following apply:

- proposed emissions comply with associated emission levels (AELs) or the equivalent requirements where there is no AEL; and
- the resulting PECs won't exceed 100% of the environmental standards.

Methodology for local nature sites:

Emissions at local nature sites (including ancient woods, local wildlife sites and national/local nature reserves) can be considered insignificant if the short- and long-term PCs are less than 100% of the environmental standard. The release of NO_x can impact ecological receptors directly, but also indirectly through the deposition of acid and nitrogen. Environmental Standards for acid and nitrogen deposition are location and habitat specific and can be identified using the Air Pollution Information System (APIS) [Air Pollution Information System | Air Pollution Information System \(apis.ac.uk\)](https://www.apis.ac.uk).

The H1 tool assumes a 100% conversion of NO_x to NO₂. Therefore the annual NO₂ PCs can also be considered as NO_x PCs and they are under 1% of the NO_x critical level of 30 ug/m³ for habitats. The annual SO₂ PCs have been calculated by multiplying the hourly average SO₂ emission rate by the relevant H1 dispersion factor. This PC is below 1% of the SO₂ critical level of 10 ug/m³ for habitats. If annual NO_x and SO₂ PCs are insignificant it can be assumed that nutrient nitrogen and acid deposition PCs will also be insignificant. Therefore, it is not considered necessary for the operator to consider habitat impacts as part of their H1 assessment.

Air quality assessment

The applicant used the Environment Agency's H1 tool to screen the proposed emissions from the Installation. The emissions were comprised of VOCs, Benzene, CO, Cl, HCl, NO₂, SO₂, Particulates PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} from the stacks and Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) abatement filters. The Applicant concluded that the process contribution (PC)* from each pollutant is less than 1% of the

relevant long-term environmental standard and less than 10% of the relevant short-term environmental standard.

We have audited the Applicant's H1 submission. Whilst we don't agree with some of the Applicant's calculations, we agree with the overall conclusion based on the data that the applicant has provided us with, that the emissions are insignificant.

We reached this conclusion by using benzene as a 'worst-case' proxy for total VOCs being emitted from each stack as per our guidance for screening unknown VOCs ([Air emissions risk assessment for your environmental permit - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)). The stacks from treatment activities are limited to the BAT-AEL of 30mg/m³ TVOC (expressed as carbon) and Benzene 5mg/m³.

Regen modular reprocessing unit

The Regen modular reprocessing unit was planned for use by the Operator, but the project didn't proceed. As a result, emission points A11 and A12 have been removed from the permit.

Scrubber drums

The Scrubber drum process, outlined in the Regulation 61 Notice response refers to 'carbon drums'. As these items of plant were to be included as part of the trials which were not undertaken, they are no longer required for consideration.

Leak detection plan (LDAR)

LDAR is a requirement of the BAT. The operator does not have an approved leak detection plan as part of their operating techniques for the site.

An improvement condition (IC11) has been added to Table S1.3 of the permit, requesting that the operator submits a written 'leak detection and repair plan', and associated procedures for EA approval. The plan will seek to identify, measure and reduce fugitive emissions of volatile organic compounds and other relevant substances to air, appropriate to their operations and in accordance with European standard EN15446 or an equivalent standard.

Update to Site Activity description

Following consultation with the Operator and obtaining more information on the site's operations, Activity AR1 in Table S1.1 of the permit has been amended to more accurately and specifically reflect the treatment process undertaken at the site.

The Activity was initially permitted under:

- Section 5.3 A(1) (a) (ii) – Disposal or recovery of hazardous waste with a capacity exceeding 10 tonnes per day involving physico-chemical treatment.

This has been amended to:

- Section 5.3 Part A (1)(a)(x) Disposal or recovery of hazardous waste with a capacity exceeding 10 tonnes per day involving oil re-refining or other re-uses of oil.

Environment Agency led variation – permit review

We have carried out an Environment Agency initiated variation to the permit following a permit review as required by legislation to ensure that permit conditions deliver compliance with relevant legislative requirements and appropriate standards to protect the environment and human health.

The Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) came into force on 7 January 2014 with the requirement to implement all relevant Best Available Techniques (BAT) Conclusions as described in the Commission Implementing Decision. Article 21(3) of the 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 of updated decisions on Best Available Techniques (BAT) Conclusions.

The BAT Conclusions for Waste Treatment (the BREF) was published on 17 August 2018 following a European Union wide review of BAT, implementing decision (EU) 2018/1147 of 10 August 2018. Relevant existing facilities were expected to be in compliance with the BAT Conclusions within 4 years (i.e. by August 2022).

On 18 November 2020, Chemical Waste: appropriate measures for permitted facilities guidance was published on gov.uk. This technical guidance explains the standards that are relevant to regulated facilities with an environmental permit to treat or transfer chemical waste, providing relevant standards (appropriate measures) for those sites and incorporating the relevant requirements of the BAT Conclusions.

We issued a notice under regulation 61(1) of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 (a Regulation 61 Notice) on 15/11/2021 requiring the operator to provide information to confirm that the operation of their facility currently meets, or how it will subsequently meet, the standards (appropriate measures) described in our technical guidance.

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 to ensure operations meet the relevant standards and by when, or
- Explains why they are not applicable to the facility in question, or
- Justifies why an alternative technique is appropriate and will achieve an equivalent level of environmental protection to the standards described in our guidance

The standards described in our technical guidance are split into 7 chapters:

- General management appropriate measures
- Waste pre-acceptance, acceptance and tracking appropriate measures
- Waste storage, segregation and handling appropriate measures
- Waste treatment appropriate measures
- Emissions control appropriate measures
- Emissions monitoring and limits appropriate measures
- Process efficiency appropriate measures

We have set emission limit values (ELVs) and monitoring requirements for relevant substances in line with our technical guidance and the BAT Conclusions for Waste Treatment, unless a tighter, i.e. more stringent, limit was previously imposed and these limits have been carried forward.

The Regulation 61 notice required the operator to confirm whether they could comply the standards described in each of these chapters. Table 1 below provides a summary of the response received and our assessment of it. The overall status of compliance with the standards (appropriate measures) is indicated in the table as:

NA – Not Applicable

CC – Currently Compliant

FC – Compliant in the future (through improvement conditions set in permit)

NC – Not Compliant

In accordance with Article 22(2) of the Industrial Emissions Directive, the Regulation 61 notice asked the operator to provide a soil and groundwater risk assessment, along with a baseline report or summary report confirming the current state of soil and groundwater contamination, where listed activities are undertaken that involve the use, production or release of relevant hazardous substances.

The Regulation 61 notice also asked the operator to confirm whether they operate a medium combustion plant or specified generator (as per Schedule 25A or 25B of EPR 2016) and whether they had considered how their operations could be affected by climate changes (e.g. through a climate change adaptation plan).

Our assessment of the responses received from the operator regarding soil and groundwater risk assessment, medium combustion plant and specified generators, and consideration of climate change are also summarised in Table 1.

The Regulation 61 notice response from the Operator was received on 21/02/2022.

We considered that the response did contain sufficient information for us to commence determination of the permit review.

Although we were able to consider the Regulation 61 notice response generally satisfactory at receipt, we needed more information in order to complete our permit review assessment. We requested this by email and the operator provided further information on (summary of information) on 29/02/2024. We made a copy of this information available on our public register.

Table 1 – Summary of our assessment of the operator’s Reg 61 response

Appropriate measures	Compliance status	Assessment of the Installation's compliance with relevant standards (appropriate measures) and any alternative techniques proposed by the operator
<p>General management appropriate measures</p>	<p>CC</p>	<p>The operator advised that the following sections are not applicable.</p> <p>2.4 Accident Prevention Measures – Segregating Waste. The site is effectively single stream / type waste (i.e. insulating oil from the ENW electricity distribution network) thus incompatibilities and segregation are not an issue.</p> <p>The operator advised that they are not in compliance with the following item of the Appropriate Measures:</p> <p>2.6 Plant Decommissioning - A Site Closure Plan is in place but requires review and update to account for replacement equipment on site.</p> <p>An updated version of the site closure plan was submitted by the operator to the Environment Agency on 20/12/2023.</p> <p>The operator confirmed that they currently meet the requirements of all other appropriate measures in this section. Compliance with the appropriate measures in this section of the guidance has been incorporated into the varied permit through the updated operating techniques listed in Table S1.2.</p>
<p>Waste pre-acceptance, acceptance and tracking appropriate measures</p>	<p>CC</p>	<p>The operator confirmed that they currently meet the requirements of the appropriate measures in this section with the exception of following Appropriate Measures deemed not applicable by the operator:</p> <p>3.2 Waste Acceptance – Acceptance of Containerised Waste CORD does not accept containerised waste.</p>

Appropriate measures	Compliance status	Assessment of the Installation's compliance with relevant standards (appropriate measures) and any alternative techniques proposed by the operator
		<p>Waste pre-acceptance and acceptance stages are essentially covered under the CORD Network Oil Monitoring process (ref: CORD-IMS-012). CORD serves only ENW with no third-party waste accepted and the nature of the waste is single stream (i.e. transformer oil).</p> <p>Insulation and heat transmission oils may contain PCBs and any oil with a PCB content of 50ppm or more is hazardous due to Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) content.</p> <p>If, through network oil monitoring, oil is noted to be contaminated by PCBs at (or above) the 10ppm level, it will not come to CORD; instead it will either be removed from the asset by a third party contractor or the entire asset (including oil) will be scheduled for disposal. This is as per the Management of PCBs process (ref: CORD-IMS-018) and a lower level of 10ppm has been established to gradually reduce the overall PCB level within the network.</p>
<p>Waste storage, segregation and handling appropriate measures</p>	<p>CC</p>	<p>The operator confirmed that they currently meet the requirements of the appropriate measures in this section with the exception of following Appropriate Measures deemed not applicable by the operator:</p> <p>Points 9 to 40 - as they relate to the storage and handling of containerised wastes. CORD does not accept containerised waste.</p> <p>Point 61 - Transfers between tankers and drums do not take place on site.</p> <p>Point 63 - Tankers are not used as blending / reaction vessels on site.</p> <p>Point 66 Site does not handle sludges other than where a tank is to be inspected internally and full clean down is completed. In such cases, sludgy tank bottoms will be sucked out as far as possible to IBC / drums and / or dug out where sludge is particularly heavy.</p>

Appropriate measures	Compliance status	Assessment of the Installation's compliance with relevant standards (appropriate measures) and any alternative techniques proposed by the operator
		<p>Points 67 & 68 The site does not handle odorous, flammable or volatile liquids or powders.</p> <p>Points 71 to 77 as they relate to aerosol storage. CORD does not handle aerosols.</p> <p>With the exceptions of points 80, 81 and 84, points 78 to 89 are deemed not applicable by the operator as they relate to either containerised waste and or mixing of different waste types. CORD does not handle containerised waste. CORD handles only insulating oil from the ENW electricity distribution network.</p>
Waste treatment appropriate measures	CC	<p>The operator confirmed that they currently meet the requirements of the appropriate measures in this section with the exception of following Appropriate Measures deemed not applicable by the operator:</p> <p>Section 5.1, Points 7 and 8: Reactions / reactor vessels are not applicable as the process involves physical treatment and vacuum treatment.</p> <p>Section 5.2 as this relates to the treatment of aerosol canisters. CORD does not accept this type of waste.</p> <p>Transformer oil is processed to make it fit to go back into the network thus saving the need for purchasing new oil. The standard for recovered oil is aligned to BS148.</p>
Emissions control appropriate measures	CC	<p>The operator confirmed that they currently meet the requirements of the appropriate measures in this section with the exception of following Appropriate Measures deemed not applicable by the operator:</p> <p>Section 6.2 Points 11, 12, 13, 17, 18 and 19: Dust and odour are not regarded as significant issues.</p>

Appropriate measures	Compliance status	Assessment of the Installation's compliance with relevant standards (appropriate measures) and any alternative techniques proposed by the operator
		<p>Section 6.3 Points 3, and 5. Noise and vibration are not regarded as significant issues. Section 6.5 Points 8, 16 and 17.</p> <p>AIR EMISSIONS</p> <p>Site emissions are primarily emissions to air from oil storage and process operations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emissions to air feature adequate abatement which comprises GAC for the management of VOCs. • Oil is held in storage tanks which are top vented with all vents being connected to abatement by fixed pipework. • Transfer of oil between storage and treatment processes is via fixed pipework. • Treatment process have the highest potential for emissions, but systems are connected to abatement. <p>EMISSIONS TO WATER</p> <p>The site does discharge surface water to sewer, operations do not generate a process effluent. Therefore, the permit does not require any assessment or ongoing monitoring.</p> <p>FUGITIVE EMISSIONS TO AIR: DUST, MUD, LITTER, ODOUR</p> <p>Dust, mud and litter are not significant risks.</p> <p>There is potential for odour through VOCs, however, fugitive emissions are limited with emissions from all storage and treatment systems being contained and passing to GAC abatement. There are no current or historic odour issues.</p>

Appropriate measures	Compliance status	Assessment of the Installation's compliance with relevant standards (appropriate measures) and any alternative techniques proposed by the operator
		<p>Treatment process have the highest potential for emissions, but systems are connected to abatement.</p> <p>Tanks cleaning: waste is single type and single source (i.e. insulating and heat transmission oil from ENW) meaning the need for tank cleaning is limited.</p> <p>Tanks may be taken out of service for de-sludging and this is required primarily on "Dirty" oil tanks (i.e. incoming waste oil).</p> <p>NOISE & VIBRATION:</p> <p>Noise is not a significant issue for the site.</p> <p>The site is also not in a particularly sensitive setting.</p> <p>The noisiest operation is the centrifuge; this is an enclosed operation located within the plant room.</p> <p>Site operational hours are limited to normal daytime hours.</p> <p>FUGITIVE EMISSIONS TO LAND AND WATER:</p> <p>The site has a full containment system,</p> <p>Containment systems at the site have been developed to provide a capacity of at least 25% of the total tankage volume and containment storage capacity has been accepted as adequate by the Environment Agency. At the time of site redevelopment, CIRIA C736 had only just been formally published and containment was established principally in-line with BAT requirements under EA Sector Guidance Note S5.06 which itself drew from CIRIA guidance R163.</p>

Appropriate measures	Compliance status	Assessment of the Installation's compliance with relevant standards (appropriate measures) and any alternative techniques proposed by the operator
		<p>The operator advised that they are not in compliance with the following Appropriate Measure:</p> <p>There is no leak detection programme in place and this will be addressed by IC11.</p>
<p>Emissions monitoring and limits appropriate measures</p>	<p>CC</p>	<p>The permit requires monitoring of emissions to air from several emissions points.</p> <p>CORD emissions to air are associated with the storage tanks and batch tanks and degassing operations.</p> <p>Emissions to be controlled and were reviewed are VOCs with limits established under the existing permit for TVOCs (75mg/m³) and Benzene (5mg/m³). The limits for these have been updated in line with the BAT AEL's.</p> <p>Also monitoring for speciated VOC's have been added to the permit.</p> <p>Emissions points A11 and A12 have been removed from the permit as these concern the GAC abatement serving the Modular Reprocessing Unit project that didn't go ahead.</p> <p>On average, TVOC emissions for all point are within the currently established limit. With the exception of A1 and A9, Benzene emissions are below LOD; for A1 there has been a single event of Benzene being detected (Q4 2021 – 0.62mg/m³); for A9 there has been a single event of Benzene being detected (Oct 2016 - 1mg/m³).</p> <p>Therefore, monitoring for Benzene will remain on the permit.</p> <p>Emissions levels associated with BAT associated emission levels (BAT-AELs) that apply to point source emissions to air from the treatment processes undertaken at regulated facility:</p>

Appropriate measures	Compliance status	Assessment of the Installation's compliance with relevant standards (appropriate measures) and any alternative techniques proposed by the operator
		<p>TVOC 30mg/m³.</p> <p>The operator is to monitor point source emissions to air for all relevant parameters and substances in accordance with the monitoring requirements of the BAT Conclusions (see BAT 8):</p> <p>Only TVOC monitoring is relevant. Monitoring is specified to be required once every six months. Currently, monitoring is completed quarterly with this having been agreed at a local level with EA instead of monthly as stated under the permit.</p> <p><u>Point source emissions to water (surface water, sewer or groundwater)</u></p> <p>There is currently one emission point to water, S1 but no monitoring requirements or limits are currently set.</p> <p>However, in the new permit the emission points have been defined as S1 and S2 where surface water drainage exits the CORD boundary. This then combines with foul water drainage from elsewhere in the ENW Whitebirk Depot (where CORD is situated) before discharging to sewer in Whitebirk Drive to the east.</p> <p>Currently there is no Trade Effluent Discharge Consent as, other than for surface water, there is no other discharge to sewer from CORD.</p> <p>There is no storage on site of water or effluent. Surface water run-off passes through a 3-stage interceptor before joining the ENW foul water drainage and discharging off site to sewer.</p> <p>At this current stage, operations do not generate a process effluent. The only discharge from the permitted area is of surface water run-off to sewer.</p>

Appropriate measures	Compliance status	Assessment of the Installation's compliance with relevant standards (appropriate measures) and any alternative techniques proposed by the operator
		<p>There is no requirement to monitor point source emissions to water monitoring requirements of the BAT conclusions for waste treatment, BAT 6 and 7.</p> <p>The operator monitors for substances or parameters for point source emissions to air that are not BAT related in their regulated facility:</p> <p>Full characterisation of emissions was completed as part of the original permit application. No change to site operations and the nature of waste into site (i.e. insulating and heat transmission oil) this original work is considered to remain valid.</p>
<p>Process efficiency appropriate measures</p>	<p>CC</p>	<p>The operator confirmed that they currently meet the requirements of the appropriate measures in this section with the exception of following Appropriate Measures deemed not applicable by the operator:</p> <p>Section 8.1 Points 3 and 4: These are not regarded as necessary at CORD. The site is a relatively low and consistent energy user.</p> <p>Section 8.3 Points 2, 4, 6, 7: These are not regarded as necessary at CORD. The site is a very low and consistent energy user.</p> <p>Section 8.4 Point 1: This is not regarded as necessary at CORD. The site generates consistent waste streams and relatively low levels of waste overall.</p> <p>However, this was addressed in the recent variation:</p> <p>Sections 8.1 and 8.3:</p>

Appropriate measures	Compliance status	Assessment of the Installation's compliance with relevant standards (appropriate measures) and any alternative techniques proposed by the operator
		<p>Under the existing permit CORD is required to monitor and report on electricity use, water use and recovery efficiency. The site also records basic CO₂ equivalent (e) data.</p> <p>The only form of energy utilised at CORD is grid supplied electricity. The variations proposed give rise to 3 main additional energy users ODGU, OAU and the fan on Abatement System - Totalling 613 MWh (151.1 tonnes)</p> <p>Instead of continuous operation throughout the year, the abatement system is switched to Process Offline mode when all process operations are off. This is calculated to provide an annual saving of 15MWh through switching off the fan equating to almost 4 tonnes of CO₂e per annum</p> <p>The closed loop recycling of oil undertaken at CORD is estimated to save, on average, over 400 tonnes CO₂e per annum on the procurement and use of an equivalent volume of virgin oil.</p> <p>Section 8.4 Point 1:</p> <p>Spent GAC will be returned to the supplier and regenerated for reuse. Other waste will be collected by specialist contractors holding Environmental Permits for hazardous waste and subject to processing to recover resources (e.g. waste oil / sludge will subject to treatment / re-refining).</p>
Reg 61 requirement		
Soil and groundwater risk assessment	Assessment of response received Site condition report submitted with the latest variation has been assessed by the EA. No issues reported.	

Appropriate measures	Compliance status	Assessment of the Installation's compliance with relevant standards (appropriate measures) and any alternative techniques proposed by the operator
Medium combustion plant and specified generators	None on site	
Climate change		The operator has not completed a climate change assessment. Climate Change adaption will be delivered through the Environmental Management System condition.
Summary of other changes made to the permit as a result of our assessment of the Reg 61 response		
Change	Reason for change	
Amended Registered office address	<i>In permit the registered address is 304 Bridgewater Place, Birchwood Park, Warrington, WA3 6XG. In companies house it is Borron Street, Stockport, SK1 2JD. When legal information in the permit the operator should inform us and have the permit varied.</i>	
Change to main body of conditions	<p><i>As a result of the permit review, a number of the main conditions have been updated or removed from the permit in line with the requirements of the Appropriate Measures Guidance and to reflect other changes to the Activities which are detailed below.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Condition 2.1.2 amended as no waste activities in permit.</i> • <i>Condition 2.3.4 (a) has been updated to reflect the amendments made to the presentation of Schedule 2 Waste Tables.</i> • <i>Condition 3.5.4 table S3.3 amended to table S3.2.</i> • <i>Section 3.6 (Pests) has been added to the permit.</i> • <i>Section 3.7 (Fire prevention) has been added to the permit.</i> • <i>Condition 4.3.4 an addition of the third part wording starting with" in any other case":</i> 	
Changes to the Activity Table, S1.1 within	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>There are multiple changes to Table S1.1 Permitted Activities as a result of the review,</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Activity AR1 in Table S1.1 of the permit has been amended to Section 5.3 Part A (1)(a)(x). See Update to Site Activity description of the Key issues section.</i> 	

Appropriate measures	Compliance status	Assessment of the Installation's compliance with relevant standards (appropriate measures) and any alternative techniques proposed by the operator
Schedule 1 of the Permit		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ with additional detail included in the limits of the Activities, with regards AR1 (S5.3 A (1)(a)(x)) – additional detail includes treatment description and location, mixing prohibitions, permitted tonnages for treatment and storage of waste streams, storage time limits, storage of process wastes in line with the requirements of BAT and the Appropriate Measures. ○ with additional detail included in the limits of the Activities, with regards AR2 (S5.6 A(1)(a)) - additional detail includes storage tank locations, permitted tonnages for storage at any one time, prohibition of blending or mixing or repackaging of waste on site. ○ Removal of DAA's, system operation, process effluent collection, temporary storage of process waste.
Location of Tanks C2 and D2		<p>Tank C2 is a clean tank but it is located in the “dirty” area; Tank D2 is a dirty tank but is in the “clean” tank area. This is for oil transfer to and from vans and is the best place for loading/ unloading.</p>
Changes to the other Tables, Schedule 1 of the permit		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Table S1.2 (Operating Techniques) has been updated to reflect the update to both the Guidance and the documents approved by the Environment Agency as acceptable for site procedures. All superseded guidance and references have been removed and replaced. ● Table S1.3 (Improvement Programme) has been updated with the new Improvement Conditions (ICs 10 to 12) and a record of the discharge of ICs 1 to 8. IC9 is no longer required.
Changes to the Wastes and EWC Code Tables in Schedule 2 of the permit		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● EWC codes have been split into Tables S2.2 and S2.3 based on AR1 (treatment) and AR2 (storage) activities. ● Some EWC codes have been removed that is outlined in the changes to EWC codes in the variation amendments outlined in this document.
Changes to Schedule 3, monitoring and emissions		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In Schedule 3, an update was required for the monitoring of emissions to air from the treatment process and water emissions to sewer. This is reflected by the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Table S3.1 – emission points A11 and A12 have been removed from the permit.

Appropriate measures	Compliance status	Assessment of the Installation's compliance with relevant standards (appropriate measures) and any alternative techniques proposed by the operator
limits in the permit		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Table S3.1 – addition of Speciated Volatile Organic Compounds on a six monthly basis or as agreed with the Environment Agency under IC12 with no limits set. Total Volatile Organic Compounds (TVOCs) limit has been amended to a BAT AEL of 30 mg/m³ with six monthly monitoring in line with the BAT Conclusions for the sector for both emissions points.</i> ○ <i>Table S3.2 has the addition of monthly monitoring of visible oil and grease for discharges to water, the limit set is none visible, in accordance with BAT and the Appropriate Measures.</i> ○ <i>Table S3.3 – Process Monitoring has been amended to include efficiency assessment of abatement for treatment units and storage tanks.</i>
Update to the Reporting Schedule		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Schedule 4 has been updated to reflect the changes made to Schedule 3 and the way the conditions have been presented has altered slightly.</i> ●
Updates and amendments to the definitions in Schedule 6 of the permit		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Schedule 6 has been updated to incorporate new definitions present in relation to the requirements of the Activities, Monitoring and Reporting of the permit. Some definitions have been removed in accordance with the change in Guidance to the Appropriate Measures and updates to the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2016.</i>

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 Regulation 61 notice response 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', Appendix 1 of RGN 2 'Interpretation of Schedule 1', guidance on waste recovery plans and permits.

The site

The operator has provided plans which we consider to be satisfactory.

These show the extent of the site of the facility including the discharge points.

The plan is included in the permit.

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 S1.2 in the environmental permit.

Changes to the permit conditions

We have varied the permit as stated in the variation notice.

Improvement programme

We have included an improvement programme to ensure that the permit complies with the Chemical waste: appropriate measures for permitted facilities.

IC9 has been removed from the permit - The Operator was intending to carry out a commissioning study, to verify the assumptions made in the application in relation to releases of pollutants to air. This relates to a proposed oil regeneration unit that did not become operational and as such, has been removed from site.

Improvement condition IC10 has been added to the permit, this relates to waste pre-acceptance and/or acceptance and/or tracking procedures:

The operator shall review and update their waste pre-acceptance and/or waste acceptance procedures to ensure that they meet the requirements of the Environment Agency's guidance Chemical waste: appropriate measures for permitted facilities. Specifically, they must demonstrate that the following appropriate measure(s) of the guidance will be met:

(e.g. waste shall be stored in the dedicated quarantine area for no more than 5 days).

Improvement condition IC11 has also been added to the permit in relation to Leak Detection and Reporting (LDAR). The Condition reads as follows:

The operator shall submit a written 'leak detection and repair plan', and associated procedures and shall obtain the Environment Agency's written approval to it. The plan will identify, measure and reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds and other substances to air, appropriate to their operations and in accordance with European standard EN15446 or an equivalent standard.

Improvement condition IC12 has also been added to the permit, this relates to updated emissions inventory and H1 (air). The Condition reads as follows:

The operator shall submit a written report to the Environment Agency for approval that proposes a monitoring programme to characterise and assess the facility's point source emissions to air in accordance with the emissions monitoring and limits specified in the Environment Agency's guidance Chemical waste: appropriate measures for permitted facilities using the Environment Agency's 'H1 Environmental Risk Assessment' tool (or equivalent as agreed with the Environment Agency).

The report shall detail the parameters and substances that will be tested for (including speciated VOC monitoring), the monitoring methods and equipment that will be used, and a timetable for undertaking the monitoring. The monitoring programme shall be carried out as approved by the Environment Agency.

A written report shall be submitted to the Environment Agency for approval detailing the results and conclusions of the emissions monitoring and assessment undertaken, including a completed H1 Environmental Risk Assessment and proposals for any ongoing monitoring or further assessment.

Changes to EWC codes

The following EWC codes have been removed from the permit:

- 13 03 08* Synthetic insulating and heat transmission oils
- 13 03 09* Readily biodegradable insulating and heat transmission oils
- 13 03 10* Other insulating and heat transmission oils

The Reg 61 response says the site does not take oil which contains >10 ppm PCB (Polychlorinated Biphenyls). EWC code 13 03 01* only applies if PCB is above 50 ppm. Therefore, we removed 13 03 01* from Table S2.3 of the permit that lists the wastes that can accepted and treated.

Oil in assets across the Electricity North West (ENW) network with PCB content >10ppm but 50ppm PCB are clearly identified and scheduled for replacement under the ENW asset management programme.

However, CORD handles oil samples from across the network with all such samples tested at the site laboratory. The sampling and analysis completed serves the maintenance programme by identifying faults / potential for faults in the assets. The site laboratory may therefore handle oil above 10ppm PCB; in some cases, oil above 50ppm PCB.

Therefore, most of the oil received on site falls under 13 03 07* and this is stored and processed under Activity AR1. However, provision has been made for the storage only of 13 03 01* and 13 03 06*, under Activity AR2.

The annual tonnage of wastes accepted has been amended as follows: The total quantity of wastes accepted at the site under activities AR2 (Storage of Hazardous Waste) shall not exceed 1,500 tonnes per year. The capacity limit for Activity AR1 (the treatment of Hazardous waste) will remain at 1,000 tonnes per year.

Emission limits

Emission Limit Values (ELV's) and equivalent parameters or technical measures, based on Best Available Techniques – Achievable Emission Levels (BAT-AELS) for Waste Treatment, have been added, amended and deleted for the following substances:

Amended:

- Total Volatile Organic Compounds (TVOCs) - 30 mg/m³

Deleted:

- Limits for substances Total Volatile Organic Compounds (TVOCs) and Benzene for emission points A11 and A12 that have been removed from the permit.

Monitoring

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

The following monitoring requirements and standards have been amended:

- Monitoring for emission point AE01 for substances Total Volatile Organic Compounds (TVOCs) and Benzene.
 - The Monitoring Standard for Total Volatile Organic Compounds (TVOCs), BS EN 12619:2013 has been amended to EN 12619.
 - Monitoring frequency has increased from annually to every 6 months.
 - The Monitoring Standard for Benzene, BS EN 13649 is amended to PD CEN/TS 13649.
 - Monitoring frequency has increased from annually to every 6 months.
- Storage tank vents via abatement (GAC) are now included in the requirements for process monitoring (Table S3.3).
- Treatment unit vents via abatement (GAC) have been included in process monitoring requirements (Table S3.3).

The following monitoring requirements have been added to the permit:

- Monitoring for emission point to air AE01 for substances Speciated Volatile Organic Compounds (to monitoring standard PD CEN/TS 13649).
 - Monitoring frequency will be every 6 months or in line with the agreement made following completion of IC12.
- Monitoring for emission points to water S1 & S2 for oil & grease, to be carried out by visual assessment.
 - Monitoring frequency will be monthly.

These monitoring requirements have been included in accordance with Best Available Techniques for Waste Treatment.

Reporting

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

Emissions to air Parameters as required by condition 3.5.1.	A3 & A10	Every 6 months
Emissions to sewer Parameters as required by condition 3.5.1	S1 & S2	Annually
Process monitoring Parameters as required by condition 3.5.1	A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, A7, A8, A9 & A10	As specified in the agreed abatement plan

We made these decisions in accordance with Best Available Techniques for Waste Treatment.

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 100 of that Act in deciding whether to grant the variation of this permit.

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.