

Mr. Mark McAree,  
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**Our ref:** EPR/FP3435LA/V006

**Date:** 27th January 2023

Dear Mark

**We need more information about your application and underpayment of application charge**

**Application reference:** EPR/FP3435LA/V006

**Operator:** Thames Water Utilities Limited

**Facility:** Maple Lodge Sewage Treatment Works

Thank you for your application. The following is to confirm our conversation of 27/1/2023

Unfortunately the application payment you sent is incorrect. The correct application charge is £22,008. This leaves a balance of £2,034 to pay. Further guidance in relation to application charges can be located at: [Environmental permits: when and how you are charged - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk). The application charge is made up as follows:

- £13,984 application fee for - S5.4 A(1) (b) (i) Recovery or a mix of recovery and disposal of non-hazardous waste with a capacity exceeding 75 tonnes per day (or 100 tonnes per day if the only waste treatment activity is anaerobic digestion) involving biological treatment.
- £3,965 application fee for the physical treatment of non-hazardous waste relating to 'C3-1b(ii): Waste accepted at the head of the works import point' for the Physical treatment of non-hazardous waste.
- £793 application fee for the physical treatment of non-hazardous waste relating to 'C3-1b(iii): Waste accepted for temporary storage and transfer or treatment' for the Physical treatment of non-hazardous waste.

**Additional Assessments (see below for further details)**

- Odour management plan – a fixed charge of £1,246
- Habitats assessment – a fixed charge of £779
- Emission Management Plan – a fixed charge of £1,241

I need to ask you for some missing information before I can do any more work on your application. Please provide us with more information to the following questions.

Permitting and Support Centre, Quadrant 2, 99 Parkway Avenue, Sheffield, S9 4WF  
Customer Contact Centre: 03708 506 506  
Email: [enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk)  
[www.gov.uk/environment-agency](http://www.gov.uk/environment-agency)

## 1) Bioaerosol

Your facility is within 250 meters of a sensitive receptor (defined under guidance [Bioaerosol monitoring at regulated facilities - use of M9: RPS 209 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk) as “a place where people live or work for more than 6 hours at a time”). You provided ‘Maple Lodge STC Bioaerosol risk assessment, dated 7 July 2022’. Within this you have provided section ‘3 Conclusions’ ‘advising that you will carry out bioaerosol monitoring, however you have not provided information on how this will be carried out in line with M9 guidance, or provided information on sampling locations. Update your Bioaerosol risk assessment to confirm the sampling locations (National Grid references) and methodology to be used in line with guidance [Bioaerosol monitoring at regulated facilities - use of M9: RPS 209 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk).

## 2) Provide information in Application form Part C2 – General – varying a bespoke permit

- a) **Your ability as an operator.** You have provided ‘Appendix B – COTC’, which provides your initial registration for “ CIWM (WAMITAB) Level 4 Certificate In waste and Resource Management – VRQ” and optional “VRQ407 – Principles and practices of managing a biological treatment processing facility (Anaerobic Digestion and Composting)” subject to the provision of relevant forms. The activity that you have applied for requires CIWM (WAMITAB) Level 4 Medium Risk Operator Competence for Anaerobic Digestion (MROC5). As a minimum to progress your application, we require evidence of registration for an appropriate scheme, or evidence of how you will provide the relevant technical competence at permit issue.
- b) **Q5a – Provide a plan or plans for the site.** You have provided ‘Appendix A figures’. On assessment of these plans they do not include all of the land on which your activities take place. i.e. the containment solutions proposed in ‘Maple Lodge STC – Containment Options Report,’ Dated August 2022.
- i. Update Appendix A and all relevant site plans to include all areas on which all the installation activities take place.
  - ii. Ensure all relevant management plans i.e. odour management plan, bioaerosol management plan, LDAR plan include all areas on which the activities take place.

*Note: (For information only) . Under guidance Develop a management system: environmental permits - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) your plan must show buildings and other main constructions, and points designated to control pollution which would include your proposed containment solutions. It should be noted that any permit issued would regulate activities applied for, which would be identified in table S1.1 of the permit. Should assets be included that do not form part of the installation activities being applied for (as a result of the containment boundary), they should be clearly identified, but would not be regulated under the issued permit as they would not form part of the installation activity.*

- c) **Q5b - Do any of the variations you plan to make need extra land to be included in the permit.** On reviewing your site condition report the National Grid Reference (NGR) is not located within your permit boundary. Provide an updated site condition report with the correct NGR
- d) **Q5b - Do any of the variations you plan to make need extra land to be included in the permit .** On review of your site condition report you have not identified ‘relevant hazardous substances’, or carried out a stage 1 -3 assessment within the site condition report (SCR) in line with guidance EC Commission Guidance on baseline reporting (2014/C 136/03) dated 6<sup>th</sup> May 2014. Update your site condition report to:
- i. Identify ‘Relevant Hazardous Substances (RHS)’ – by consideration of the chemical and physical properties of each hazardous substance [composition, solubility, toxicity, mobility, physical state (solid, liquid or gas)] and determine

whether any of these substances are capable of causing soil and/or groundwater contamination.

- ii. Include a Stage 1- 3 assessment within the SCR (Further details of the Stage 1 – 3 assessment are set out within EC Commission Guidance on baseline reporting (2014/C 136/03) dated 6<sup>th</sup> May 2014. This is in accordance with Schedule 7 (paragraph 5 [m]) of the EPR regulations 2016 / Article 22 of IED. It is also referred to in the draft H5 guidance.)

**e) Question 6 – Environmental Risk assessment.** Under guidance Risk assessments for your environmental permit - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) you must identify risks, explain what the environmental impact could be and explain what measures you will take to reduce risks. You have identified in your application that you have floating roof digesters, but provided no information on the design. Provide an explanation of the floating roof digesters design, implementation, and management to demonstrate that they meet the requirements set out in BAT 14 which are to contain diffuse emissions.

**f) Question 6 – Environmental Risk assessment.** Under guidance Risk assessments for your environmental permit - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) you must identify risks, explain what the environmental impact could be and explain what measures you will take to reduce risks. You have identified in your application that you have open tanks. You have advised that you will undertake monitoring of open tanks, however this does not demonstrate how you will achieve BAT or provide us with enough information to assess. You must clearly demonstrate how you will meet the requirements set out in BAT 14 which are to contain diffuse emissions. We can see no evidence of how diffuse emission will be managed for these tanks, or measures that you will take to reduce risks. Section 7 of guidance Biological waste treatment: appropriate measures for permitted facilities - Guidance - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) provides further information on what is required. Submit a risk assessment which provides methods for containing and abating emissions from open tanks, or provide alternative measures with evidence of how they will provide the same level of environmental protection at BAT.

*Note: To confirm any proposals submitted must provide evidence to demonstrate how you will meet Best available techniques: environmental permits - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk). Specifically BAT 14 requires that tanks containing biologically active materials that have the potential to generate diffuse emissions must be carried out in enclosed equipment.*

*Should you need to demonstrate that your anaerobic digestion process has been effective, and that digestate stored in these tanks is stable, we would require evidence to demonstrate through testing in line with PAS 110 PAS110\_2014.pdf (wrap.org.uk) ‘Annex A (normative) Minimum anaerobic digestate stability requirements’, or an equivalent standard/methodology. Should the residual biogas potential test digestate show the digestate to be unstable we will require tanks to be enclosed, with any resultant biogas diverted to your gas system. We would require this to be carried out through the completion of improvement conditions.*

*For any tanks identified as not biologically active, we require that you submit proposals for the covering of tanks in line with guidance Covering Slurry Lagoons (publishing.service.gov.uk), Biological waste treatment: appropriate measures for permitted facilities - 1. When appropriate measures apply - Guidance - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) and BAT 14.*

### **3) Provide information in Application form Part C3 – General – varying a bespoke permit**

- a) **Q1 – What activities are you applying to vary.** You have identified in ‘Table C3-1a – Types of activities’ under activity S5.4 A1(b)(i), annex I and II codes and descriptions ‘D10 Incineration on land’. We can see no mention in your non-technical summary of why D10 Incineration on land’ is required. Provide an explanation of why you are applying for D10 Incineration on land, or confirm that this is not required.

- b) **Table 3 – Technical standards.** You have advised in your response “Will be updated as and when the EA guidance is issued”, and identified LFTGNO8: guidance for Monitoring landfill gas engine emissions. Under guidance [Part C3 varying a bespoke installation permit \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#) you must identify any relevant guidance in [Technical guidance for regulated industry sectors: environmental permitting - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#), and relevant best available techniques (BAT). It should also be noted that LFTGNO8 is superseded [Biological waste treatment: appropriate measures for permitted facilities - Guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#). Provide an updated C3 form identifying the relevant technical standards that your site will comply with.
- c) **Q3b – General Requirements.** You have provided ‘Table C3-3b (iv) - Environmental Risk Assessment and Accident Management Plan’. This does not meet the requirements of guidance [Develop a management system: environmental permits - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) and is missing key information such as review dates, emergency contacts etc. Your accident management plan must be a standalone document. Provide an accident management plan that meets the requirements of [Develop a management system: environmental permits - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).
- d) **Q3 - Operating Techniques -** You have not provided your waste pre-acceptance and acceptance procedures in line with ([Best Available Techniques \(BAT\) Reference Document for Waste Treatment Industrial Emissions Directive 2010/75/EU Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control \(europa.eu\)](#)) BAT 2. Provide a copy of your waste pre-acceptance and acceptance procedures.
- e) **Q3 Operating Techniques –** You have provided document ‘B22849AZ-JA-MAPLS1ZZ-100-CA-P-0001 – 01082022’ ADBA assessment. On review of this it does not seem to be completed for your site, identifying materials such as Chicken Manure, and potatoes in your material feedstock, and . Provide an fully completed ADBA assessment for the activities that you are applying for to confirm the relevant containment class.
- f) **Q3 operating techniques –** You have identified on your emission point plan flares at locations A6, A7 and A9. Your current permit advises that emission point A6 and A7 are being decommissioned, and your non-technical summary refers to only two flares. Provide an explanation of how flares will only be used on site in the event of an emergency, confirm if flares identified at emission points A6 and A7 are still to be decommissioned.
- g) **Q4a – Monitoring -** Requires that you provide environmental monitoring, for example, bio-aerosol monitoring, surface water or groundwater, noise, ambient air monitoring, process and land monitoring. You must describe the frequency of any monitoring, the measurement methodology you will use and the procedure for evaluating your results. You must provide a permanent means of access to monitoring points. On assessment of your response you have provided some emission to air points in section 5, but not included all potential emissions, or relevant parameters. For all relevant emissions as outlined in guidance [Part C3 varying a bespoke installation permit \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#), provide:
- i. The national grid reference of the monitoring point
  - ii. The frequency of monitoring.
  - iii. The methodology used for monitoring. You should use recognized standards such as British EN standards or ISO standards.
  - iv. The procedures (written documents) you follow to assess the measures.
- h) **Q4b9 – BS EN 15259 -** You have answered no to question in section 4, but not provided information on how the standards in BS EN 15259 will be met. Provide an assessment to how the standards in BS EN 15259 will be met.
- 4) **Provide information in Application form Part C4 – General – varying a bespoke waste operation permit**
- a) **Q1 – What waste operations are you applying to vary –** On review of ‘Table C3-

1b(iii): Waste accepted for temporary storage and transfer or treatment'. You have not provided a non-technical summary, or provided information on how you will comply with the relevant appropriate measures for this waste activity.

- i. Update your non-technical summary to include an explanation of the activity identified as 'Waste accepted for temporary storage and transfer or treatment'.
- ii. Provide an explanation of how you will comply with the relevant appropriate measures (Biological waste treatment: appropriate measures for permitted facilities - 1. When appropriate measures apply - Guidance - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk))
- iii. Alternatively confirm that you will not be applying for this waste activity as part of your permit application.

**b) Q1 – Types of waste accepted.** On review of 'Table C3-1b(i) Waste accepted into Anaerobic Digestion import point'. Note 2 states "Where wastes are imported which would cause the digester outputs to fall outside of the Sludge Use in Agriculture Regulations, those wastes in Table 1 will not currently be accepted. Null waste returns will be provided to demonstrate that these wastes have not been processed." Your application is for the resultant cake to be used under the Sludge Use in Agriculture Regulations, you have provided no information on how you will manage your process for co-digestion.

- i. Confirm that you will not be undertaking co-digestion, and identify the EWC codes that you will remove from your application, or
- ii. Provide a non-technical summary and BAT assessment to demonstrate how you will operate the site for co-digestion.

## 5) Emissions returned to the WwTW.

The waste anaerobic digestion process produces effluent and is discharged off site to the Maple Lodge Wastewater Treatment Works. Effluent discharged to the head of the works is a point source emission to sewer. BAT conclusion 3 requires operators to have an emissions inventory for the effluent. We acknowledge that applicants may not hold this information in order to inform a quantitative risk assessment for existing discharges. For the purpose of duly making, provide the following information:

- a) Provide a summary of the sampling and analysis methodology of the effluent discharged and specify the likely pollutants in the effluent (guidance here Monitoring discharges to water: guidance on selecting a monitoring approach - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) and Surface water pollution risk assessment for your environmental permit - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)).
- b) Provide a written statement with a commitment to undertake the sampling and analysis in line with BAT3.
- c) Provide a written statement with a commitment that those undertaking the sampling and analysis will be by accredited to MCERTs or provide evidence of equivalent standards.
- d) Provide a revised drainage plan which identifies the effluent sampling point for the effluent discharge from the installation.
- e) Advise the NGR of the effluent/s sampling point.

Please send the information, quoting the above application reference, to:

Email address: [sarah.raymond@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.raymond@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Please send the information and payment within 10 working days of this letter. Details of how to pay are given in Part F of the application form.

If we do not receive the information and payment within 10 working days we will return your application.

If we do receive the requested information and payment within 10 working days, we'll continue to check your application. We'll check to see if there's enough information for the application to be 'duly made'. Duly made means that we have all the information we need to begin determination. Determination is where we assess your application and decide if we can allow what you've asked for.

We'll let you know by letter whether your application can be duly made. If it can't be duly made, we'll return your application to you.

If we do have to return your application we'll send you a partial refund of your application payment. We'll retain 20% of the application charge to cover our costs in reviewing your application and requesting information. This maximum amount we'll retain is capped at £1,500. Further information on charging can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-permitting-charging-scheme-2019>

If you have any questions please phone me on 07557 139052 or email [sarah.raymond@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.raymond@environment-agency.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely

**Sarah Raymond**  
**Senior Permitting Officer - Installations**