

Permitting Decisions- Bespoke Permit

We have decided to grant the permit for EMR Middlesbrough Granulation operated by European Metal Recycling Limited.

The permit number is EPR/DP3421SN/A001

The permit was granted on 09/06/2025.

The application is for a waste cable and metal processing facility with an annual throughput of up to 57,000 tonnes and is regulated under the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2016 with three distinct waste installations activities Section 5.4 Part A(1) (b)(iv), Section 5.3 Part A(1) (a)(ii), and Section 5.6 Part A(1) (a). The installation is located at NZ 48006 20273 in an urban landscape surrounded by other industry within the town of Middlesbrough.

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:

- 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

Unless the decision document specifies otherwise, we have accepted the applicant's proposals.

Read the permitting decisions in conjunction with the environmental permit.

Key issues of the decision

We have assessed the surface run-off discharge to surface waters from the waste storage area. It has been demonstrated that possible alternatives (including storage and tankering off-site and the installation of an on-site effluent treatment plant are not financially feasible and would provide minimal environmental benefit. The H1 assessment submitted by the operator showed that chromium, copper, lead, and zinc did not screen out as insignificant,

therefore detailed modelling was required. The operator submitted detailed modelling of this discharge, and we have deemed the EQS is not at risk and the mixing zones are of an acceptable size and will not impact present habitats. We have included the lower limit BAT-AEL within the permit for this discharge to ensure protection of surface water quality.

We have included an improvement condition within the permit (IC1), which requires the operator to collect surface water data for 12 months. This will be submitted, alongside any necessary modelling, at the end of the period for further assessment by the Environment Agency. This is to ensure that the data submitted as part of the application accurately reflects the discharge conditions whilst the site is operational under the conditions of this permit.

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.

Consultation

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

The application was publicised on the GOV.UK website.

We consulted the following organisations:

Local Authority – Environmental Protection Department and Planning Department

Fire and Rescue Department

Director of PH/UKHSA

Health and Safety Executive

Food Standards Agency

No responses were received.

Operator

We are satisfied that the applicant (now the operator) is the person who will have control over the operation of the facility after the grant of the permit. The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance on legal operator for environmental permits.

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'

The extent of the facility is defined in the site plan and in the permit. The activities are defined in table S1.1 of the permit.

The site

The operator has provided a plan which we consider to be satisfactory.

The plan is included in the permit.

Site condition report

The operator has provided a description of the condition of the site, which we consider is satisfactory. The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance on site condition reports.

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:

- Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast (SPA) – 15m
- Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast (SSSI) – 15m
- Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast (RAMSAR) – 1131m

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 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 table S1.2 in the environmental permit.

Operating techniques for emissions that do not screen out as insignificant

Point Source Emissions to Air

Emissions of long-term PM₁₀ (particulate matter 10) and Long-term VOCs (volatile organic compounds) PCs (process contribution) to air have not screened out as insignificant, however the PECs (predicted environmental concentration) are not expected to exceed the ES (environmental standard) at any of the receptor locations. As part of our determination, we assessed whether the proposed techniques are Best Available Techniques (BAT). The proposed techniques are set out in the relevant technical guidance ([here](#) and [here](#)) and we consider them to represent BAT for the facility. The operator is using a combination of cyclone systems and fabric filters to limit emissions to air. Limits of 3 mg/Nm³ for VOCs (Benzene) and 5 mg/Nm³ for PM_{10/2.5} are set in the permit and these enable compliance with BAT-Associated Emission Levels (AELs) as set out in the relevant BAT reference documents (BREFs and BAT Conclusions).

Point Source Emissions to Water

Emissions of Chromium, Copper, Lead, and Zinc to surface water from site run-off do not screen out as insignificant. Modelling has been provided from the operator, which we have assessed and have determined that no risk to the EQS (environmental quality standard) is present, and the mixing zones are acceptable. The lower limit BAT-AELs have been included within the permit as follows:

- Chromium – 0.01 mg/l
- Copper – 0.05 mg/l
- Lead – 0.05 mg/l
- Zinc – 0.1 mg/l

Operating techniques for emissions that screen out as insignificant

Emissions to air for short-term PM10 and short-term VOCs (Benzene) PCs have screened out as insignificant, and so we agree that the applicant's proposed techniques are Best Available Techniques (BAT) for the installation.

Emissions to water of arsenic, cadmium, nickel, and mercury screen out as insignificant within the discharge to surface waters from site run-off, the lower limit BAT-AELs have been included within the permit as follows:

- Arsenic – 0.01 mg/l
- Cadmium – 0.01 mg/l
- Nickel – 0.05 mg/l
- Mercury – 0.0005 mg/l

We consider that the emission limits included in the installation permit reflect the BAT for the sector.

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.

Fire Prevention Plan

We have assessed the fire prevention plan and are satisfied that it meets the measures and objectives set out in the Fire Prevention Plan guidance.

We have approved the fire prevention 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 plan has been incorporated into the operating techniques S1.2.

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.

Pre-operational conditions

Based on the information in the application, we consider that we need to include pre-operational conditions.

- 1) PO1 - The decommissioning and removal of the currently operational diesel generator on the site must be completed prior to the installation becoming operational under the conditions of the permit. The diesel generator has not been included in any pollution modelling and therefore, has not been assessed against BAT or any other relevant environmental risk assessments.

Emission Limits

Emission Limit Values (ELVs) and equivalent parameters or technical measures based on Best Available Techniques (BAT) have been added for the following substances:

- VOCs – 3 mg/Nm³
- PM10/PM2.5 – 5 mg/Nm³

It is considered that the numeric limits described below will prevent significant deterioration of receiving waters.

- TOC – 10mg/l
- COD – 30 mg/l

- Total suspended solids – 5 mg/l
- Hydrocarbon oil index – 0.5 mg/l
- Arsenic – 0.01 mg/l
- Cadmium – 0.01 mg/l
- Chromium – 0.01 mg/l
- Copper – 0.05 mg/l
- Lead – 0.05 mg/l
- Nickel – 0.05 mg/l
- Mercury – 0.0005 mg/l
- Zinc – 0.1 mg/l

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.

We made these decisions in accordance with The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 and BAT conclusions for waste treatment.

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.

Reporting

We have specified reporting in the permit.

We made these decisions in accordance with The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016.

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.

We only review a summary of the management system during determination. The applicant submitted their full management system. We have therefore only reviewed the summary points.

A full review of the management system is undertaken during compliance checks.

Technical Competence

Technical competence is required for activities permitted.

The operator is a member of the CIWM/WAMITAB scheme.

We are satisfied that the operator is technically competent.

Previous performance

We have assessed operator competence. There is no known reason to consider the applicant will not comply with the permit conditions.

We have checked our systems to ensure that all relevant convictions have been declared.

Relevant convictions were found and declared in the application. We considered relevant convictions as part of the determination process.

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.

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, our notice on GOV.UK for the public and the way in which we have considered these in the determination process.

Responses from organisations listed in the consultation section:

No responses received.

Representations from local MPs, assembly members, councillors and parish/town community councils||

No responses received.

Representations from community and other organisations

No responses received.

Representations from individual members of the public

No responses received.