

Permitting decisions – Bespoke Permit

Medium Combustion Plant and Specified Generator

We have decided to grant the permit for Kirkby in Ashfield Energy Park operated by Alkane Energy CM Limited.

The permit number is EPR/EP3229LD.

This permit was granted on 19/09/2025.

Application for three natural gas fired engines each with a thermal input of 4.577MWth. The engines operate under a capacity market agreement which was in place prior to 01/12/2016. The engines are existing MCPs as there were first put into operation before 20/12/2018.

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 to show how the main relevant factors have been taken into account.

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.

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

The regulated facility comprises:

- One or more medium combustion plant (MCP) between 1 and <50MWth but aggregated to <50MWth, and/or
- Three Tranche A Specified Generators aggregated to <50MWth at a specified location.

The operator has provided the grid reference for the emission points for the medium combustion plant.

The permitted combustion plant included are existing MCP and Tranche A generators.

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 and habitat designations. The application is within our screening distances for these designations.

Kirkby Grives SSSI is with the 2km screening distance of the site.

We have assessed the application and its potential to affect sites of nature conservation 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 or designated habitat identified.

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.

We reviewed the operator's assessment of the environmental risk from the facility and the assessment shows that applying the conservative criteria in our guidance on environmental risk assessment all emissions may be categorised as environmentally not significant.

The MCP is located within the screening distance of relevant nature conservation and habitat designations. Therefore, an assessment of the impact of emissions on the nature conservation and habitat designated sites has been carried out. The operator's risk assessment is satisfactory.

The assessment shows that applying the conservative criteria in our guidance on environmental risk assessment emissions will not affect any site of nature conservation or designated habitat identified.

Operating techniques

We have specified the operating techniques and the operator must use the operating techniques specified in tables S1.2A and S1.2B of the 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.

Emission Limit Values (ELVs) have been set for the following substances:

Oxides of nitrogen

For existing MCPs with a thermal input <5MW we have set the ELV to apply from the relevant compliance date.

We made these decisions in accordance with MCP and SG technical guidance

Medium Combustion Plant guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/medium-combustion-plant-and-specified-generator-permits-how-to-comply>

Specified Generator Guidance <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/medium-combustion-plant-and-specified-generator-permits-how-to-comply>

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 for the operator to demonstrate compliance with the emission limits specified in the permit. The operator will carry out monitoring in accordance with the relevant methods specified in the permit.

Monitoring of existing plant does not apply until after acceptance of the first monitoring data, which can be at any time but no later than the relevant compliance date. This is specified in the permit.

We made these decisions in accordance with MCP and SG technical guidance.

Reporting

We have specified reporting in the permit.

We made these decisions in accordance with MCP and SG technical guidance.

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.

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.