

## Permitting Decisions- Environment Agency Initiated Variation

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We have issued an Environment Agency initiated variation for Nunn Brook Road, Sutton in Ashfield operated by National Grid Electricity Distribution (East Midlands) PLC following a review of the permit in accordance with Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016, regulation 34(1).

The variation number is EPR/CB3906SL/V005.

The permit variation was issued on 23/01/2026.

We consider in reaching this 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.

### 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:

- [Chemical waste: appropriate measures for permitted facilities - Guidance - GOV.UK](#) 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.

## 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

### 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 17/12/2024 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
- Confirms if they intend to cease operating any activity which would be in breach of the relevant new BAT Conclusion (BATC) after the compliance date, and the date by which they intend to cease operation;
- Confirms where there is a BAT-Associated Emission Level (BAT-AEL) specified in the BAT conclusion, with which they will not comply with by the compliance date and they wish to continue operating, they should request a derogation.

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

The Regulation 61 notice 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.

### **Regulation 61 Response**

The Regulation 61 notice response from the Operator was received on 19/03/2025 and 27/03/2025.

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 20/11/2025. 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**

<b>Appropriate measures</b>	<b>Compliance status</b>	<b>Assessment of the installation’s compliance with relevant standards (appropriate measures) and any alternative techniques proposed by the operator</b>
<b>General management appropriate measures</b>	CC	The operator confirmed that they currently meet the requirements of all 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.
<b>Waste pre-acceptance, acceptance and tracking appropriate measures</b>	CC	The operator confirmed that they currently meet the requirements of all 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.
<b>Waste storage, segregation and handling appropriate measures</b>	CC	The operator confirmed that they currently meet the requirements of all 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.
<b>Waste treatment appropriate measures</b>	CC	<p>The operator stated in their Regulation 61 response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No waste treatment is taking place as part of the permitted activity.</li> </ul> <p>During the determination, we identified the repackaging of the oil onsite as a treatment activity. We considered this section of the appropriate measures to apply to this operation. For this reason, 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>
<b>Emissions control appropriate measures</b>	CC	<p>The operator stated that all items listed under this section of the Appropriate Measures are not applicable to their site.</p> <p>Following our review during the determination process, we concluded that this section of the Appropriate Measures is applicable to the operations undertaken on site. Consequently, 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>
<b>Emissions monitoring and</b>	NA/CC	<b>Emissions to Air</b>

<b>limits appropriate measures</b>		<p>In their Regulation 61 Notice response, the operator stated that the monitoring requirement does not apply to storage drums containing cold lubricating oil stored under ambient conditions.</p> <p>We have reviewed the operator's justification regarding the storage of waste oil in sealed drums and are satisfied that monitoring is not required, provided the drums are appropriately stored. This conclusion is based on the low risk posed by the storage of oils within sealed drums.</p> <p>Emission to Water</p> <p>In their Regulation 61 response, the operator stated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No monitoring requirements under the permit.</li> </ul> <p>During determination, we identified an emission point, Emission Point W1, for the discharge of uncontaminated water to the Brook, as listed in Schedule 3, Table S3.1. This table now includes a requirement to monitor for visible oil and grease. In accordance with BAT requirements, the discharge limit is set at "none present" prior to release to the Brook.</p>
<b>Process efficiency appropriate measures</b>	CC	The Operator has confirmed that they are able to comply with all appropriate items in the Appropriate Measures for process efficiency. 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.
<b>Reg 61 requirement</b>	<b>Assessment of response received</b>	
<b>Soil and groundwater risk assessment</b>	The operator has not included a site condition report in their submission. This was not required as part of the application as it was out of the scope of the permit review. The operator is required to submit 5 and 10 yearly monitoring of groundwater and soil contamination as per the conditions in the permit.	
<b>Medium combustion plant and specified generators</b>	No existing medium combustion plant or specified generators are present at this facility.	
<b>Climate change</b>	Submission of climate change risk assessment is no longer application requirement. It now forms a part of the operator's EMS and will be reviewed within compliance assessment.	

Summary of other changes made to the permit as a result of our assessment of the Reg 61 response	
Change	Reason for change
Updated template conditions	We have updated the standard permit conditions in line with our standard permit template for this sector.
Multi permit consolidation	Consolidation of permit EPR/RP3531YZ into EPR/CB3906SL. Activities under EPR/RP3531YZ have been incorporated into Table S1.1.  EPR/RP3531YZ will cease to exist.
Schedule 7	Added new site plans

## **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'.

### **The site**

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

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

The plans show the location of the part of the installation to which this permit applies on that site.

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.



## **Updating permit conditions during consolidation**

We have updated permit conditions to those in the current generic permit template as part of permit consolidation. The conditions will provide the same level of protection as those in the previous permit.

## **Changes to the permit conditions**

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

## **Management plans**

We did not review any management plan under the scope of the permit review. Under the conditions of the permit, where we consider that activities are giving rise to pollution in the form of fugitive emissions, we will ask for the submission and implementation of a suitable management plan.

## **Emission limits**

For rainfall runoff from non-process areas of waste storage/treatment (e.g. roofs and car parks) we have included descriptive limits on visible oil and grease.

## **Monitoring**

We have decided that monitoring should be added for the following parameter, using the methods detailed and to the frequencies specified:

- Oil or grease

We made these decisions in accordance with Waste Treatment BAT Conclusions, Chemical Waste: Appropriate Measures for Permitted Facilities

## **Reporting**

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

- Emissions to water, every 6 months.

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.