Decision document variation

We have decided to grant the variation for Sidegate Lane Recycling Facility operated by SUEZ Recycling and Recovery UK Ltd.

The variation number is EPR/XP3092NX/V005.

The permit was issued on 5 August 2026.

The variation is to vary the permit to allow the operation of a lithium-ion battery recycling facility. When operating as a battery recycling facility, transfer operations will be limited to the acceptance of batteries of various chemistries and fluorescent tubes for storage and transfer only. However, the permit will allow the re-activation of the non-hazardous transfer station as a whole once a pre-operational condition (chargeable) for submission of new technical documents have been submitted for assessment and approval, has been satisfied. The open windrow composting operation will remain in the permit also but not operational with no permitted waste to be accepted and a requirement, under a pre-operational condition (chargeable), for the operator to submit new technical documents for assessment and approval before such activity can re-commence.

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. We have assessed the aspects that are changing as part of this variation, we have not revisited any other sections of the permit.

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
- shows how we have considered the consultation responses.

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

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

Decision considerations

Confidential information

A claim for commercial or industrial confidentiality has not been made.

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 comments and our responses are summarised in the consultation responses section.

The application was publicised on the GOV.UK website.

We consulted the following organisations:

Health and Safety Executive

UKHSA

Environmental Health

Food Standards Agency

Local Authority Planning Department

Sewage Undertaker – Anglian Water

Local Fire Service

The comments and our responses are summarised in the consultation responses section.

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 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.

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

We have assessed the application and its potential to affect sites of nature conservation, landscape, heritage, 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.

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.

Operating techniques

The operating techniques that the applicant must use are specified in table S1.2 in the environmental permit.

General operating techniques

We have reviewed the techniques used by the operator and compared these with the relevant and we consider them to represent appropriate techniques for the facility.

The operator has provided information to support compliance with the BAT Reference document. We have assessed the information provided and we are satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with appropriate BATc.

The operating techniques that the applicant must use are specified in table S1.2 in the environmental permit.

Operating techniques for emissions that screen out as insignificant

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

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.

The plan has been incorporated into the operating techniques table S1.2 of 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.

Raw materials

We have not specified limits and controls on the use of raw materials and fuels.

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.

When operating as a battery recycling facility, transfer operations will be limited to the acceptance of batteries of various chemistries and fluorescent tubes for storage and transfer only. However, the permit will allow the re-activation of the non-hazardous transfer station as a whole once a pre-operational condition (chargeable) for submission of new technical documents have been submitted for assessment and approval, has been satisfied. The open windrow composting operation will remain in the permit but not operational with no permitted waste to be accepted and a requirement, under a pre-operational condition (chargeable), for the operator to submit new technical documents for assessment and approval before such activity can re-commence.

A pre-operation condition has also been placed into the permit to allow the operator to confirm that the infrastructure and all the appropriate plant and control measures have been installed to allow the commencement of commissioning of the new battery recycling facility.

Improvement programme

Based on the information on the application, we consider that we need to include an improvement programme.

We have included an improvement programme to ensure that emissions from the battery recycling facility will be are confirmed and re-assessed within the first 9 months of the operation commencing.

The Operator shall submit a written report to the Environment Agency for technical assessment and approval. The report must contain:

- *Results of monitoring from emission points 1 and 2, as shown on drawing No. Sgl-LITH-LAY-0626-02, of the parameters assessed within the H1 submitted with the application and any other parameters detected to verify the assumptions made within the H1. The results shall be taken from a minimum of three rounds of monitoring. Additional parameters to assess for shall include the following groups:*
  - *Dioxin-like Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)*
  - *Dioxins and Furans (PCDD/F)*
  - *Brominated flame retardants (BFRs)*
  - *Metals and metalloids excluding mercury (including Li, As, Cd, Co, Cr, Cu, Mn, Ni, Pb, Sb, Se, Tl, V)*
  - *PFAS compounds (monitoring purposes only)*
- *A revised H1 using the results of the monitoring where the actual emissions are higher than those in the original H1.*

- *Detailed air dispersion modelling where the emissions do not screen out within the revised H1.*
- *Measures to be taken to reduce or abate emissions where detailed modelling does not screen out emissions.*
- *The Operator shall implement any improvement measures and applicable limits identified within the report in line with a timetable agreed in writing with the Environment Agency.*

This will ensure that the environment is protected going forward.

Emission limits

Emission Limit Values (ELVs) and/or equivalent parameters or technical measures based on Best Available Techniques (BAT) and appropriate measures have been added to the permit.

Total Particulate Matter (Dust)	5 mg/m^3	Hourly average	6 monthly	BS EN 13284-1

Monitoring

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

Table S3.1 Point source emissions to air – emission limits and monitoring requirements

Emission point ref. & location	Source	Parameter	Limit (including unit)	Reference period	Monitoring frequency	Monitoring standard or method
Emission Point 1 shown on drawing No. Sgl-LITH-LAY-0626-02.	Emission Stack	Total Particulate Matter (Dust)	5 mg/m^3	Hourly average	6 monthly	BS EN 13284-1
Emission Point 2 shown on drawing No. Sgl-LITH-LAY-0626-02.	Emission Stack	Total Particulate Matter (Dust)	5 mg/m^3	Hourly average	6 monthly	BS EN 13284-1

Table S3.1 Point source emissions to air – emission limits and monitoring requirements						
Emission point ref. & location	**Source**	**Parameter**	**Limit (including unit)**	**Reference period**	**Monitoring frequency**	**Monitoring standard or method**
Emission Point 1 shown on drawing No. Sgl-LITH-LAY-0626-02.	Emission Stack	Total VOCs	30mg/m3 or as agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1
Emission Point 1 shown on drawing No. Sgl-LITH-LAY-0626-02.	Emission Stack	Ni, Cd	No Limit or as agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1	Yearly or as agreed in line with IC1	EN 14385 or as agreed in line with IC1
Emission Point 1 shown on drawing No. Sgl-LITH-LAY-0626-02.	Emission Stack	Li, As, Co, Cr, Cu, Mn, Pb, Sb, Se, Tl, V	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1
Emission Point 1 shown on drawing No. Sgl-LITH-LAY-0626-02.	Emission Stack	SO_2	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1
Emission Point 1 shown on drawing No. Sgl-LITH-LAY-0626-02.	Emission Stack	HCl	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1
Emission Point 1 shown on drawing No. Sgl-LITH-LAY-0626-02.	Emission Stack	HF	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1

Table S3.1 Point source emissions to air – emission limits and monitoring requirements						
Emission point ref. & location	**Source**	**Parameter**	**Limit (including unit)**	**Reference period**	**Monitoring frequency**	**Monitoring standard or method**
Emission Point 1 shown on drawing No. Sgl-LITH-LAY-0626-02.	Emission Stack	Brominated flame retardants	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1
Emission Point 1 shown on drawing No. Sgl-LITH-LAY-0626-02.	Emission Stack	Dioxin-like PCBs	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1
Emission Point 1 shown on drawing No. Sgl-LITH-LAY-0626-02.	Emission Stack	PCDD/F	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1
Emission Point 1 shown on drawing No. Sgl-LITH-LAY-0626-02.	Emission Stack	PFAS compounds	No limit	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1
Emission Point 2 shown on drawing No. Sgl-LITH-LAY-0626-02.	Emission Stack	Total VOCs	30mg/m3 or as agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1
Emission Point 2 shown on drawing No. Sgl-LITH-LAY-0626-02.	Emission Stack	Ni, Cd	No Limit or as agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1	Yearly or as agreed in line with IC1	EN 14385 or as agreed in line with IC1

Table S3.1 Point source emissions to air – emission limits and monitoring requirements						
Emission point ref. & location	**Source**	**Parameter**	**Limit (including unit)**	**Reference period**	**Monitoring frequency**	**Monitoring standard or method**
Emission Point 2 shown on drawing No. Sgl-LITH-LAY-0626-02.	Emission Stack	Li, As, Co, Cr, Cu, Mn, Pb, Sb, Se, Tl, V	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1
Emission Point 2 shown on drawing No. Sgl-LITH-LAY-0626-02.	Emission Stack	SO_2	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1
Emission Point 2 shown on drawing No. Sgl-LITH-LAY-0626-02.	Emission Stack	HCl	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1
Emission Point 2 shown on drawing No. Sgl-LITH-LAY-0626-02.	Emission Stack	HF	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1
Emission Point 2 shown on drawing No. Sgl-LITH-LAY-0626-02.	Emission Stack	Brominated flame retardants	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1
Emission Point 2 shown on drawing No. Sgl-LITH-LAY-0626-02.	Emission Stack	Dioxin-like PCBs	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1

Table S3.1 Point source emissions to air – emission limits and monitoring requirements						
Emission point ref. & location	**Source**	**Parameter**	**Limit (including unit)**	**Reference period**	**Monitoring frequency**	**Monitoring standard or method**
Emission Point 2 shown on drawing No. Sgl-LITH-LAY-0626-02.	Emission Stack	PCDD/F	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1
Emission Point 2 shown on drawing No. Sgl-LITH-LAY-0626-02.	Emission Stack	PFAS compounds	No limit	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1	As agreed in line with IC1
MCP emission point 3 as shown on drawing No. Sgl-LITH-LAY-0626-02.		None	None	-	-	-

Note 1: Concentrations are defined at a temperature of 27.3.15K, a pressure of 101.3kPa at 17% O2 with no correction for water vapour.

These monitoring requirements have been included in order to ensure emissions from this new novel treatment process are assessed and controlled effectively to prevent pollution of the environment.

We made these decisions in accordance with the waste batteries: appropriate measures for permitted facilities.

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.

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.

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 variation.

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, and the way in which we have considered these in the determination process.

Responses from organisations listed in the consultation section

Response received from Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Services.

Brief summary of issues raised: *Thank you for the consolation, following a review of the Fire Prevention Plan and Strategy, we have no comments to make on this variation.*

Summary of actions taken: Confirmation was sort that the fire service were happy with the change of activity to a waste battery treatment facility. A further emailed was received confirmation that their systems had been updated to show the change in operations on site.

Response received from UKHSA.

Brief summary of issues raised:

We request that the Environment Agency takes account of the following concerns when considering appropriate permit conditions:

- The air quality assessment found that the criteria for insignificance effects was not met by some of the pollutants (SO2, benzene and sulphuric acid), however the Environmental Action Levels for these pollutants were not exceeded when included with the background concentrations for these pollutants. We would therefore request that the Environment Agency considers the appropriate permit conditions for these pollutants for the site.
- The assessment has highlighted that some pollutant groups were not assessed in the air quality assessment of the point source emissions as there are limitations in current guidance for these pollutants which would allow assessment of their effects. We would expect the applicant to liaise with the Environment Agency to establish Emission Limit Values for those pollutants which were not included within the assessment to be included within any permitting conditions for the site. These pollutant groups include:
    - Dioxin-like Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)
    - Dioxins and Furans (PCDD/F)
    - Brominated flame retardants (BFRs)
    - Metals and metalloids excluding mercury (including As, Cd, Co, Cr, Cu, Mn, Ni, Pb, Sb, Se, Tl, V - Lithium is not listed as one of the metals or metalloids).

This consultation response is based on the assumption that the permit holder shall take all appropriate measures to prevent or control pollution, in accordance with the relevant sector guidance and industry best practice.

Summary of actions taken: Monitoring requirements have been added to the permit in table 3.1 to require the operator to assess for these parameters.

We have also added an improvement condition to require the operator to assess the actual breakdown of emissions leaving the site, re-run their H1 assessment and where required proposed additional measures/controls to reduce or abate emissions down where they do not screen out.

No responses were received from any other consultee.