

# Environment Agency permitting decisions

## Variation

We have decided to issue the variation for **Appleside Farm Poultry Unit** operated by G. N. Burne.

The variation number is **EPR/LP3837MZ/V003**

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:

- explains how the application has been determined
- provides a record of the decision-making process
- shows how all relevant factors have been taken into account
- justifies the specific conditions in the permit other than those in our generic permit template.

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

## Structure of this document

- Key issues
- Annex 1 the decision checklist

## Key issues of the decision

### Industrial Emissions Directive (IED)

The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 were made on the 20 February and came into force on 27 February. These Regulations transpose the requirements of the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED).

Amendments have been made to the conditions of this variation so that it now implements the requirements of the EU Directive on Industrial Emissions.

### Groundwater and soil monitoring

As a result of the requirements of the Industrial Emissions Directive, all permits are now required to contain a condition relating to protection of soil, groundwater and groundwater monitoring. However, the Environment Agency's H5 Guidance states **that it is only necessary for the operator to take samples** of soil or groundwater and measure levels of contamination where there is evidence that there is, or could be existing contamination and:

- The environmental risk assessment has identified that the same contaminants are a particular hazard; or
- The environmental risk assessment has identified that the same contaminants are a hazard and the risk assessment has identified a possible pathway to land or groundwater.

H5 Guidance further states that it is **not essential for the Operator** to take samples of soil or groundwater and measure levels of contamination where:

- The environmental risk assessment identifies no hazards to land or groundwater; or
- Where the environmental risk assessment identifies only limited hazards to land and groundwater and there is no reason to believe that there could be historic contamination by those substances that present the hazard; or
- Where the environmental risk assessment identifies hazards to land and groundwater but there is evidence that there is no historic contamination by those substances that pose the hazard.

The site condition report for Appleside Farm Poultry Unit in application EPR/LP3837MZ/A001 demonstrates that there are no hazards or likely pathway to land or groundwater and no historic contamination on site that may present a hazard from the same contaminants. Therefore, although this condition is included in the permit, no groundwater or soil monitoring is required at this installation as a result of this condition at this time.

## **Biomass boiler**

The applicant is varying his permit to include one 199 kW biomass boiler with thermal input capacity of 221.1 kWh.

In line with the Environment Agency's May 2013 document "Biomass boilers on EPR Intensive Farms", an assessment has been undertaken to consider the proposed addition of the biomass boiler(s).

This guidance states that the Environment Agency has assessed the pollution risks and has concluded that air emissions from small biomass boilers are not likely to pose a significant risk to the environment or human health providing certain conditions are met. Therefore a quantitative assessment of air emissions will not be required where:

the fuel will be derived from virgin timber, miscanthus or straw, and;

the biomass boiler appliance and installation meets the technical criteria to be eligible for the Renewable Heat Incentive, and;

the aggregate boiler net rated thermal input is:

- A. less than 0.5MWth, or;
- B. less than 1MWth where the stack height is greater than 1 metre above the roof level of adjacent buildings (where there are no adjacent buildings, the stack height must be a minimum of 3 metres above ground), and there are:
  - no Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Ramsar sites or Sites of Special Scientific Interest within 500 metres of the emission point(s);
  - no National Nature Reserves, Local Nature Reserves, ancient woodlands or local wildlife sites within 100 metres of the emission point(s), or;
- C. less than 2MWth where, in addition to the above criteria for less than 1MWth boilers, there are:
  - no sensitive receptors within 150 metres of the emission point(s).

The biomass boilers meet the requirements of criteria A above, and are therefore considered not likely to pose a significant risk to the environment or human health and no further assessment is required.

## Annex 1: decision checklist

This document should be read in conjunction with the Duly Making checklist, the application and supporting information and permit/ notice.

Aspect considered	Justification / Detail	Criteria met
		Yes
<b>European Directives</b>		
Applicable directives	<p>All applicable European directives have been considered in the determination of the application.</p> <p>Conditions implementing the requirements of Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) have been added to the permit as a result of this variation.</p> <p>See key issues above for further detail.</p>	✓
<b>The site</b>		
Extent of the site of the facility	<p>The operator has provided a plan which we consider is satisfactory, showing the extent of the site of the facility.</p> <p>A plan is included in the permit and the operator is required to carry on the permitted activities within the site boundary.</p> <p>The area and extent of the facility has not changed as a result of this variation.</p>	✓
<b>Environmental Risk Assessment and operating techniques</b>		
Environmental risk	<p>We have reviewed the operator's assessment of the environmental risk from the facility.</p> <p>The operator's risk assessment is satisfactory.</p> <p>The air emissions from the biomass boiler have been assessed and have been deemed environmentally insignificant. See key issues for further detail.</p> <p>See key issues for further detail.</p>	✓
Operating techniques	<p>We have reviewed the techniques used by the operator and compared these with the relevant guidance notes.</p> <p>The operating techniques are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the fuel is derived from virgin timber,</li> <li>• the biomass boiler appliance and it's installation</li> </ul>	✓

Aspect considered	Justification / Detail	Criteria met
		Yes
	<p>meets the technical criteria to be eligible for the Renewable Heat Incentive; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the stacks are 1m or more higher than the apex of the adjacent buildings.</li> </ul> <p>The proposed techniques for priorities for control are in line with the benchmark levels contained in the SGN EPR 6.09 and we consider them to represent appropriate techniques for the facility. The permit conditions ensure compliance with relevant BREFs and BAT Conclusions.</p>	
<b>The permit conditions</b>		
Updating permit conditions during consolidation.	<p>We have updated previous permit conditions to those in the new generic permit template as part of permit consolidation. The new conditions have the same meaning as those in the previous permit(s).</p> <p>The operator has agreed that the new conditions are acceptable.</p>	✓
Raw materials	<p>We have specified limits and controls on the use of raw materials and fuels.</p> <p>We have specified that only virgin timber (including wood chips and pellets), straw, miscanthus or a combination of these. These materials are never to be mixed with or replaced by waste.</p>	✓
Improvement conditions	<p>Based on the information on the application, we consider that we need to impose improvement conditions.</p> <p>All the existing improvement conditions (IC1 to IC5) in the permit have been discharged and marked completed in the permit.</p> <p>IC6 was deleted from the permit on 08/08/2014 following Environment Agency initiated variation. The status log has now been updated to reflect this change.</p>	✓
Incorporating the application	<p>We have specified that the applicant must operate the permit in accordance with descriptions in the application, including all additional information received as part of the determination process.</p> <p>These descriptions are specified in the Operating Techniques table in the permit.</p>	✓

Aspect considered	Justification / Detail	Criteria met
		Yes
<b>Operator Competence</b>		
Environment management system	There is no known reason to consider that the operator will not have the management systems to enable it to comply with the permit conditions. The decision was taken in accordance with RGN 5 on Operator Competence.	✓