

# Review of an Environmental Permit under the Environmental Permitting (England & Wales) Regulations 2010 (“EPR”)

## Decision document recording our decision-making process

We have decided to vary the Permit for Waterbeach Waste Management Park operated by AmeyCespa (East) Limited, as a result of an application made by the Operator.

The Permit number is EPR/LP3593LM

The Variation notice number is EPR/LP3593LM/V006

## What this document is about

This is a decision document, which accompanies a variation notice.

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.

## Preliminary information and use of terms

We refer to the Permit (both existing and as varied) as “the **Permit**” in this document; and to the variation of the Permit as “the **Variation**”.

The Operator of the Installation is AmeyCespa (East) Limited: we call AmeyCespa “the **Operator**” in this document. We refer to AmeyCespa’s Waterbeach Waste Management Park as “the **Installation**”.

The Application was duly made on 16 September 2014.

## **How this document is structured**

- Our decision
- The legal framework
- How we took our decision
- Key issues in the determination
- Annex 1 – the decision checklist

# 1 Our decision

We have issued a Variation, which will allow the Operator to operate their facility as an Installation, subject to the conditions in the varied Permit.

This Variation gives effect to our decision following the identification of the Operator as undertaking a “newly prescribed activity” (NPA) under the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED);

We consider that, in reaching our decision, we have taken into account all relevant considerations and legal requirements and that the Permit will continue to ensure that a high level of protection is provided for the environment and human health.

The original Permit, issued on 19 June 2009, ensured that the facility, would be operated in a manner which would ensure the protection of the environment specified in the existing Guidance at the time. To the extent that we have substantively altered the Permit as a result of this variation, the new requirements will deliver a higher level of protection to that which was previously achieved.

## 2 The legal framework

The original Permit was granted on 19 June 2009 and regulated under the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2007 [now 2010].

The Installation will be subject to the requirements of the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) 2010/75/EU and regulated under the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010 (SI 2010 No 675). The IED was transposed in England and Wales by the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales)(Amendment) Regulations 2013 on 27 February 2013.

The IED seeks to achieve a high level of protection for the environment taken as a whole from harmful effects of industrial activities. It does so by requiring each of the industrial installations to have a permit from the competent authority (in England, the Environment Agency, or for smaller Installations, the relevant Local Authority). The IED has increased the number of activities that require an Installations permit. These are predominantly regulated as “waste operations” and include (when exceeding specific thresholds described in IED):

- hazardous waste treatment for recovery;
- hazardous waste storage;
- biowaste treatment – recovery and/or disposal;
- treatment of slags and ashes
- metals shredding;
- pre-treatment of waste for incineration/co-incineration;
- biological production of chemicals; and
- independently operated wastewater treatment works serving only industrial activities subject to the Directive

Article 11 of the IED requires the relevant authority (the Environment Agency in this case) to ensure that the Installation is operated in such a way that all the appropriate preventative measures are taken against pollution, in particular through the application of Best Available Techniques (BAT). Under Article 15(2), the Permit must contain emission limit values (ELVs) (or equivalent parameters or technical measures) for any pollutants likely to be emitted from the Installation in significant quantities. These ELVs are to be based on BAT, but also on local factors and EU Environmental Quality Standards. The overarching requirement is to ensure a high level of protection for the environment and human health.

We are required by Article 13 of the IED to keep abreast of developments in BAT. In addition, Article 13 requires us to carry out a periodic review of the permit’s conditions, and to update them if necessary.

The IED also requires the European Commission to organise an exchange of information between EU Member States so that what are known as BAT reference documents (or BREF notes) can be published, creating a level playing field across the EU, providing a consistent set of standards for new plant, to which regulatory authorities in the Member States can then have

reference. These BREF notes are the basis for our own national sector technical guidance. The Commission is also required to update BREF notes on a regular basis. The waste treatment BREF notes are currently being reviewed and a final issue date is anticipated in 2016. Under the IED, all permits will be subject to review within four years of the publication of revised BREF notes. This means that we will need to do a further review against any new standards in the BREF notes at sometime in the future.

The IED is to be implemented over several years commencing from 7 January 2013. For existing installations operating “newly prescribed activities”, the relevant date for implementation is 7 July 2015.

### 3 How we reached our decision

It is the Operators responsibility to ensure they are correctly regulated for the activities they are carrying out. Following adoption of the IED, the Environment Agency has engaged in a range of briefings and communications with the waste industry sector to raise awareness of the implications of the Directive and the need to ensure their facilities are correctly regulated (particularly after the implementation date of 7 July 2015 for newly prescribed activities).

Early in 2014, the Environment Agency provided further briefings to industry trade bodies and wrote to operators we believed may be implicated by these changes. We provided detailed information sheets that described the implications and the process operators should follow if they decided to have their activities permitted as Installations.

We confirmed that most facilities fell into one of two groups:

- Facilities permitted from April 2007  
When these facilities were permitted, a thorough assessment would have been carried out to confirm whether the proposed activities were using “appropriate measures” as a standard to protect the environment.

This standard of protection is the same standards that would have been assessed against had the facilities applied as an Installation activity (i.e. BAT). The permit would have also been issued with modern conditions that ensured protection of the environment.

We consider that these facilities are effectively ‘IED-compliant’ in terms of the technical standard of the facility with the exception of the “newly prescribed activity”. For these facilities, we consider that, in general, no further technical assessment is required, so administrative variations are an appropriate mechanism to show the activities as Installation activities. The administrative variation is a necessary route for the Operator to formally ask for this activity to be included in their permit and for us to advertise that request on our Public Register.

It is understood that the Environment Agency granted permits for new waste activities under the Waste Management Licensing Regulations 1994 beyond April 2007. Where a facility falls into this group, the Environment Agency shall determine whether or not the application was assessed using “appropriate measures”. Where it is determined that the application was assessed using “appropriate measures”, the application will be designated as an “administrative variation”.

- Facilities permitted before April 2007  
For these facilities, a “normal” or “substantial” variation is appropriate because a detailed technical assessment is required on aspects of the Application in addition to the administrative changes.

Substantial variations will only be relevant where the newly prescribed activity is being added to an existing installation permit.

This Variation

The original Permit was granted on 19 June 2009 and subsequently varied on 14 March 2012 and 15 May 2014. We have reviewed the documentation submitted in support of the original permit and subsequent variation application(s) in this determination. We are satisfied that the standard of protection was assessed using appropriate measures. We have determined this Variation as an administrative variation.

## 4 Key issues in the determination

### 1. Operating techniques

The activities within the Waterbeach Waste Management Park which are being permitted under the IED include the In-Vessel Composting (IVC) and Open Windrows Composting (OWC) and their directly associated activities.

The operating techniques will follow appropriate guidance such as relevant Technical Guidance Notes:

- IPPC S5.06 – Guidance for the Treatment of Hazardous and Non-Hazardous Waste;
- H3 – Noise assessment and control;
- H4 – Odour Management

### 2. Operator Performance

The decision was made with reference to the Operator's recent environmental performance, and with input from the Area Environment Officer. The installation has been served with an Enforcement Notice under the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010 dated 11 September 2014. This is because the environmental performance with regard to odour control had been poor and numerous complaints from the public had been received, particularly during the summer of 2014, regarding odours from the operation of the IVC. The Operator has an Odour Management Plan (OMP) but we do not consider that this has been satisfactory in terms of meeting existing permit conditions, and therefore the Enforcement Notice was served. The Enforcement Notice seeks to improve the operating conditions and odour abatement at the site, including the use of a bio-filter at the IVC.

Since the serving of the Enforcement Notice we have noted an improvement in the environmental performance of the operator, and plans have been submitted to us for the bio-filter. The bio-filter operation will be permitted as a normal variation with reference to BAT, following this administrative variation. For the above reasons, we have not included an Improvement Condition in this variation.

## Annex 1 – decision checklist

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

Aspect considered	Justification / Detail	Criteria met
<b>Receipt of submission</b>		
<b>Consultation</b>		
Responses to consultation and web publicising	The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance. No public responses were received in response to the web publicising of the application.	✓
<b>Operator</b>		
Control of the facility	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 EPR RGN 1 Understanding the meaning of operator.	✓
<b>The facility</b>		
The regulated facility	<p>The decision on the facility was taken in accordance with RGN [Meaning of waste], and RGN [Recovery of waste]</p> <p>The regulated facility is an installation which comprises the following activities listed in Part 2 of Schedule 1 to the Environmental Permitting Regulations and the following directly associated activities:</p> <p>S5.4A(1)(b)(i) In-vessel composting, and open windrow composting.</p> <p>The following directly associated activities apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raw material storage</li> <li>• Storage of waste pending recovery</li> <li>• Physical treatment for the purpose of recycling</li> <li>• Compost storage</li> <li>• Process water collection and storage</li> <li>• Collection and storage of uncontaminated site surface water (rainwater)</li> </ul>	✓
<b>European Directives</b>		
Applicable Directives	All applicable European Directives have been considered in the determination of the application.	✓
<b>The site</b>		
Extent of the	The operator has provided a plan which we consider is	✓

Aspect considered	Justification / Detail	Criteria met
		Yes
site of the facility	satisfactory, showing the extent of the site of the facility. A plan is included in the permit and the operator is required to carry on the permitted activities within the site boundary.	
Operating techniques	<p>We have reviewed the techniques used by the operator and compared these with the relevant guidance notes –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IPPC S5.06 – Guidance for the Treatment of Hazardous and Non-Hazardous Waste;</li> <li>• H3 – Noise assessment and control;</li> <li>• H4 – Odour Management</li> </ul> <p>The proposed techniques/emission levels for priorities for control are in line with the benchmark levels contained in the above technical guidance notes and we consider them to represent appropriate techniques for the facility.</p> <p>No BAT assessment was carried out as part of this administrative variation.</p>	✓
Waste types	No changes to the waste types.	✓
<b>The permit conditions</b>		
Reporting	<p>We have specified reporting in the permit. Reporting forms have been prepared to facilitate reporting of data in a consistent format. These reporting requirements are deemed sufficient and proportional for the Installation..</p> <p>We made these decisions in accordance with our guidance <i>How to Comply with your Environmental Permit</i> and Regulatory Guidance Note 4 – Setting standards for environmental protection</p>	✓

## **Annex 2 – Web publicising**

No responses were received in response to the web publication