

Environment Agency permitting decisions

Variation

We have decided to issue the variation for the installation **Cross House Farm Poultry Unit** operated by **Mr Robert, Mrs Jean and Mr Walter Parkinson (Trading as W & J Parkinson)**.

The variation number is **EPR/MP3931AV/V002**

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.

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Structure of this document

- Key issues
- Annex 1 the decision checklist
- Annex 2 the consultation and web publicising

Key Issues

Biomass boiler and introduction of usage of waste wood

The operator is varying their permit to include usage of grade A waste wood as fuel for the existing 1.047 MW biomass boiler.

This leads to the addition of a new scheduled activity; *Section 5.1 B (a) (v) incineration in a small waste incineration plant with an aggregate capacity of 50 kilogrammes or more per hour of wood waste, with the exception of wood waste which may contain halogenated organic compounds or heavy metals as a result of treatment with wood preservatives or coatings.*

This is in addition to the current usage of virgin wood which will continue as a directly associated activity to the main poultry intensive farming scheduled activity.

The existing biomass boiler combustion air emissions screened out as having insignificant impact based on following criteria:

For poultry sites, as here:

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).

This is 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).

The Environment Agency's risk assessment has shown that the biomass boiler(s) meet the requirements of criteria **C** above.

Grade A waste wood usage

We have assessed that there is negligible additional environmental impacts with usage of Grade A waste wood over and above the usage of virgin timber, miscanthus or straw.

The operator previously only used virgin wood as fuel for the biomass boilers and this was included in the permit as a directly associated activity.

The operator has applied to use grade A recycled waste wood. Where virgin and waste wood are mixed the fuel is all considered a waste.

As the activity does not meet the criteria of a U4 waste exemption it will fall under *section 5.1 (B) (a)(v) of the Environmental Permitting Regulations ‘The incineration in a small waste incineration plant with an aggregated capacity of 50kgs or more per hour of the following waste – wood waste with the exception of waste which may contain halogenated organic compounds or heavy metals as a result of treatment with wood preservatives or coatings’.*

The 1.047MW thermal input boiler has a capacity of **285 kgs/hour** and therefore the operation is a scheduled activity as defined above.

Site specific description of waste source, waste code and procedure to ensure that only grade A waste wood will be accepted. The waste codes are defined in permit table S2.2.

The operator will only be permitted to accept this waste type. We are satisfied that the waste wood is from a manufacturing source and that it will not be contaminated.

There will be no change to the storage location or quantity for biomass fuel (including waste).

In addition the operator has supplied a summary of their waste acceptance procedure to ensure all waste wood utilisation in the biomass boiler is in compliance with the grade A waste wood specification.

Conclusion

As such we conclude that there are negligible additional environmental impacts with the usage of grade A waste wood.

Annex 1: decision checklist

Aspect considered	Justification / Detail	Criteria met
		Yes
Receipt of submission		
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 confidential. The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance on commercial confidentiality.	✓
Consultation		
Scope of consultation	<p>The consultation requirements were identified and implemented. The decision was taken in accordance with our Public Participation Statement and our Working Together Agreements.</p> <p>For this application we consulted the following bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HSE • Wyre District Council Environmental Health Department <p>There are no human residences within 100 metres of the installation boundary and hence in accordance with our guidance no consultation with Public Health England and the Director of Public Health.</p>	✓

Aspect considered	Justification / Detail	Criteria met
		Yes
Responses to consultation and web publicising	The web publicising and consultation (Annex 2) were taken into account in the decision. The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance.	✓
Operator		
Control of the facility	We are satisfied that the applicant (now the operator) is the person who will have control over the operation of part of the facility after the grant of the permit. The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance on what a legal operator is.	✓
European Directives		
Applicable directives	All applicable European directives have been considered in the determination of the application	✓
The site		
Extent of the site of the facility	The operator has provided a plan which we consider is 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. There are no changes to the installation boundary with this variation	✓
Environmental Risk Assessment and operating techniques		
Environmental risk	We have carried out a risk assessment on behalf of the operator. See Key Issues section for further explanation.	✓
Operating techniques	We have reviewed the techniques used by the operator and compared these with the relevant guidance notes. The operating techniques are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste-acceptance criteria and compliance with provided Grade A waste wood supplier specification. • Confirmation that waste wood storage would be in identical location as existing virgin wood storage area. • The waste wood addition does not lead to changes to overall biomass wood (combination of Grade A waste wood and virgin wood) maximum storage capacity (100 tonnes) or annual usage level (2,400 tonnes per annum). The proposed techniques for priorities for control are in line with the benchmark levels contained in the Sector Guidance Note EPR 6.09 and we consider them to represent appropriate techniques for the facility. The permit conditions ensure compliance with relevant BREFs.	✓

Aspect considered	Justification / Detail	Criteria met
		Yes
The permit conditions		
Raw materials	We have specified limits and controls on the use of raw materials and fuels. We have specified that only virgin timber (including wood chips and pellets), straw, miscanthus or a combination of these or Grade A wood to be utilised as biomass fuel.	✓
Waste types.	For the grade A waste wood specified limits and controls have been included with the addition of permit table S2.2. Permitted waste types and quantities for use as fuel for the biomass boiler units.	
Incorporating the application	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. These descriptions are specified in the Operating Techniques table in the permit.	✓

Annex 2: External Consultation and web publicising responses .

No external body consultation responses received by deadline 5th October 2016.

No public responses received by deadline 5th October 2016.
