Part C2 5c: Non-technical summary

This application is for a variation to the environmental permit for the installation operated by Oscar Mayer Ltd trading as Rowan Foods ("the installation"). The variation involves the following changes:

1. Installation of new refrigeration systems to serve temperature-controlled storage areas, including those recently constructed at the installation under permit variation EPR/WP3534GX/V003.
2. Installation of an air conditioning system and additional process refrigeration unit to serve production areas.
3. As a consequence of 1 & 2, removal of several old refrigeration systems.
4. Installation of an additional, gas-fired steam-raising boiler with capacity of 7000kg steam per hour. This will be located in the existing boiler house marked on the Site Plan provided with this application; the boiler house was designed to accommodate three boilers and a third flue is already present in the boiler house stack. As is the case for the two existing steam-raising boilers, this boiler is equipped to use gasoil as a back-up fuel.
5. As a consequence of 4, introduction of a new emissions point, adjacent to A1 and A2 and in the same (existing) stack. Combustion gases from the new boiler will be released at this point, designated A10 on the site plan drawing provided with this application.

The application provides more details of these changes, the environmental effects and risks associated with them, and describes measures incorporated at the design stage or to be taken after commissioning to manage these. These elements of the application are summarised below.

Emissions

The equipment to be installed will give rise to emissions to air, in the form of:

- emissions of combustion products from the gas-fired boilers, notably carbon dioxide (CO_2) and nitrogen oxides (NOx). Existing equipment on site already releases these substances. The new plant will operate in place of the existing plant, so emissions of these substances are expected to change only if site throughput changes. Boiler emissions are monitored annually.

- fugitive emissions of refrigerants. The proposed changes involve an overall reduction in the quantity of HFC refrigerant gases on site by approximately 25%, therefore fugitive emissions of these greenhouse gases are expected to reduce too.

Expected emissions to air are quantified in the body of the application, and related control measures described.

No changes in emissions to water or sewer, or to solid waste arisings, are associated with the changes proposed.

Energy and materials

The only materials introduced to site by the proposed changes are the refrigerants noted in the previous section. The refrigerant introduced is a less powerful greenhouse gas than the refrigerant present in plant to be removed from site.

All plant to be introduced has energy efficiency designed in. Energy-efficient features are described in Part C3.3 and C3.6 of the application.

Risks: risk minimisation and controls

There are no new risks to the environment from the operation of the equipment covered by this application. New equipment will be incorporated into the site's existing planned preventative maintenance programme which ensures safe, efficient operation of all equipment on site. The site also operates an environmental management system that pursues continuous reduction of the environmental burdens of Rowan Foods' operations and incorporates contingency plans to minimise the environmental effects of any incidents that do occur on site.