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Wales

Natural Resources Wales permitting decisions

Decision Document

Solutia UK Limited

Variation

The application number is: PAN-002039

The Operator is: Solutia UK Limited

The Installation is located at: Cefn Mawr (former 'Ruabon' Works), Wrexham, LL14 3SL.

We have decided to issue the variation for Cefn Mawr (former 'Ruabon' works) operated by Solutia UK Limited.

The variation number is EPR/NP333GR/V009

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

- Table of contents
- Key issues

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Key issues of the decision

1 Our decision

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

This Application is to operate an installation which is subject principally to the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED).

The permit contains many conditions taken from our standard Environmental Permit template including the relevant Annexes. We developed these conditions in consultation with industry, having regard to the legal requirements of the Environmental Permitting Regulations and other relevant legislation. This document does not therefore include an explanation for these standard conditions. Where they are included in the permit, we have considered the Application and accepted the details are sufficient and satisfactory to make the standard conditions appropriate.

2 How we reached our decision

2.1 Receipt of Application

The Application was accepted as duly made on 06/11/2017. This means we considered it was in the correct form and contained sufficient information for us to begin our determination, but not that it necessarily contained all the information we would need to complete that determination.

The Applicant made a claim for no claim for commercial confidentiality.

2.2 Requests for Further Information

In order for us to be able to consider the Application duly made, we needed more information. We requested further information relating to the declaration not being signed by the correct person. Upon receipt of this information we were able to consider the application Duly Made.

A copy of the information notice and e-mails requesting further information were placed on our public register as were the responses when received.

3 The Legal Framework

The Permit/variation will be granted, under Regulation 20 of the EPR. The Environmental Permitting regime is a legal vehicle which delivers most of the relevant legal requirements for activities falling within its scope. In particular, the regulated facility is:

- an *installation* as described by the IED;
- subject to aspects of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 which also have to be addressed.

We address the legal requirements directly where relevant in the body of this document. NRW is satisfied that this decision is consistent with its general purpose of pursuing the sustainable management of natural resources in relation to Wales, and applying the principles of sustainable management of natural resources. In particular, NRW acknowledges that it is a principle of sustainable management to take action to prevent significant damage to ecosystems. We consider that, in granting the Permit a high level of protection will be delivered for the environment and human health through the operation of the Installation in accordance with the permit conditions.

4 The Installation

4.1 Description of the Installation and related issues

4.1.1 The permitted activities

The Installation is subject to the EPR because it carries out an activity listed in Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the EPR:

- Section 5.4 A(1)(a)(ii) Disposal of non-hazardous waste in a facility with a capacity exceeding 50 tonnes per day by physico-chemical treatment

An installation may also comprise “directly associated activities”, which at this Installation includes a groundwater and stormwater storage facility,

Together, these listed and directly associated activities comprise the Installation.

4.1.2 What the Installation does

Solutia UK Limited operate three carbon filtration units to treat groundwater which is abstracted for reasons of slope stability and to prevent the escape of groundwater, which contains iron and organic compounds, to surface water via other routes. Groundwater is abstracted from two de-watering boreholes and two collection sumps before being passed through the carbon filtration units for treatment. The function of the carbon filtration units is to absorb trace plant-related organic compounds in the groundwater and they don't act to remove iron. Solutia UK Limited also operate a Groundwater and Stormwater Storage Facility (GSSF). This facility receives water from two sources: (i) treated groundwater from the carbon filtration units; and (ii) rainwater collected by the site's surface water drainage system. Both sources of water are transferred to the GSSF via pipeline, where they are combined and held in storage tanks before being discharged to the River Dee via pipeline.

4.2 Operation of the Installation – general issues

4.2.1 Administrative issues

The Applicant is the sole Operator of the Installation. We are satisfied that the Applicant is the person who will have control over the operation of the Installation if the Permit were to be granted; and that the Applicant will be able to operate the Installation so as to comply with the conditions included in the Permit, if issued.

5 Minimising the Installation's environmental impact

5.1 Fugitive emissions

The applicant wishes to decommission the Effluent Culvert Sump (and pump) and the u-shaped trough for the three effluent transfer lines pipe rack connecting the main site area to the current ground water and storm water storage facility (GSSF) by puncturing, in doing so this will allow rainwater to soak-away naturally to ground within company owned property. They will complete (initially weekly) risk based visual inspections will be formally documented, and the findings will be similarly recorded. Based upon the information in the application we are satisfied that the appropriate measures will be in place to prevent or where that is not practicable to minimise fugitive emissions and to prevent pollution from fugitive emissions.

5.2 Operating techniques

We have reviewed the techniques used by the operator and compared these with the relevant guidance notes.

The operator has stated in their non-technical summary that they wish to decommission the Effluent Culvert Sump (and pump) and the u-shaped trough for the three effluent transfer lines pipe rack connecting the main site area to the current ground water and storm water storage facility (GSSF) by puncturing, in doing so this will allow rainwater to soak-away naturally to ground within company owned property. They will complete (initially weekly) risk based visual inspections will be formally documented, and the findings will be similarly recorded.

The proposed techniques/ emission levels for priorities for control are in line with the benchmark levels contained in the TGN and we consider them to represent appropriate techniques for the facility.