

Natural Resources Wales permitting decisions

Partial transfer of a bespoke permit

We have decided to grant the partial transfer for Ruabon Chemical Works from Air Products Electronics Advanced Materials Europe Limited to Solutia UK Limited.

Permit number EPR/BV2689IE will continue to be operated by Air Products Electronics Advanced Materials Europe Limited.

Permit number EPR/PP3231WL will now be operated by Solutia UK Limited.

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 as a result of the partial transfer

Structure of this document

- Key issues
- Annex 1 the decision checklist

Key issues of the decision

The Regulated Facility

This is a part transfer of a limited part of the Ruabon Chemical Works installation from Air Products Electronics Advanced Materials Europe Limited (the transferor) to Solutia UK Limited (the transferee). The specific items covered by the part transfer are:

- Effluent lines running to the effluent treatment plant, from the point of entry of treated groundwater from Solutia UK Ltd's three activated carbon filter units;
- The effluent treatment plant itself; and

- The pipeline for discharge of final effluent from the effluent treatment plant to the River Dee at W1 and Tref-y-Nant Brook at W2

The transfer is required because Air Products Electronics Advanced Materials Europe Limited have closed their manufacturing unit at the installation and intend to withdraw from the site. However Solutia UK Ltd will continue to need to use the effluent treatment plant and associated transfer lines in order to convey treated groundwater to the discharge point into the River Dee. The site plans associated with each operator's permit have been updated to reflect this change and are included in the transfer documentation for each operator.

In summary Solutia UK Ltd are permitted to operate the following listed activities at this multi-operator installation:

Permit EPR/NP3335GR

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

This activity relates to the treatment of contaminated abstracted groundwater by carbon adsorption and filtration.

Permit EPR/PP3231WL

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

This activity relates to the effluent treatment plant which is the subject of this part transfer.

Air Products Electronic Advanced Materials Europe Limited are permitted to operate the following listed activity:

Permit EPR/BV2689IE

- Section 4.2 Part A(1)(a)(v) - Producing inorganic chemicals such as non-metals, metal oxides, metal carbonyls or other inorganic compounds such as calcium carbide, silicon, silicon carbide, titanium dioxide;

And the following directly associated activities:

- Steam generation from two package boilers (individually <20MW)
- Provision of compressed air
- Storage of caustic soda
- Organic effluent storage / loading facility for off-site disposal

Annex 1: decision checklist

This document should be read in conjunction with the application and supporting information and permit / notice. A transfer date has been agreed with the new operator as the date on which they will be in control of the facility. This is the effective date of the permit transfer.

Aspect considered	Justification / Detail	Criteria met
		Yes
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 EPR RGN 1 “Understanding the meaning of operator”.	✓
The facility		
The regulated facility	The permitted regulated facilities have changed as a result of the partial transfer. This permit applies to only one part of the installation. The names and permit numbers of the operators of other parts of the installation are detailed in the permit's introductory note. See Key Issues section	✓
The permit conditions		
Changes to permit conditions	The permit conditions have changed as a result of the partial transfer. These conditions are identified in part transfer notice EPR/PP3231WL/T001. In addition this notice also identifies a number of conditions where reference to the “Environment Agency” has been amended to “Natural Resources Wales”. Finally we have updated a number of tables in schedule 4 and 5 to reflect minor operational changes which have previously been agreed by Natural Resources Wales.	
The site		
Extent of the site of the facility	The extent of the facility has changed as a result of the partial transfer. 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. The Ruabon Chemical Works installation is a multi-	✓

Aspect considered	Justification / Detail	Criteria met
		Yes
	operator installation comprising Solutia UK Ltd and Air Products Electronic Advanced Materials Europe Ltd. The site plan associated with permit EPR/BV2689IE operated by Air Products Electronic Advanced Materials Europe Ltd (the transferor) has been updated to reflect the changes associated with this part transfer. The updated site plan forms part of part transfer notice EPR/BV2689IE/T006.	
Operator competence		
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 EPR RGN 5 on "Operator Competence".	✓
Relevant convictions	The National Enforcement Database has been checked to ensure that all relevant convictions have been declared. No relevant convictions were found. The operator satisfies the criteria in EPR RGN 5 on "Operator Competence".	✓
Financial provision	There is no known reason to consider that the operator will not be financially able to comply with the permit conditions. The decision was taken in accordance with EPR RGN 5 on "Operator Competence". The financial provision arrangements have satisfied the financial provisions criteria.	✓