

Natural Resources Wales permitting decisions

Sofidel UK Limited (Baglan Paper Mill) Decision Document

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Variation

The variation number is: EPR/BU2489IT/V011

The operator is: Sofidel UK Limited

The Installation is located at: Baglan Paper Mill, Brunel Way, Baglan Energy Park, Briton Ferry, Neath, SA11 2FP

We have decided to issue a variation for Baglan Paper Mill operated by Sofidel 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 other than those in our generic permit template.

Unless the decision document specifies otherwise we have accepted the applicant's proposals.

Key issues of the decision

Purpose of variation

The variation is required for the installation of an additional emission point (A7) as part of a ViscoNip energy efficiency project. The project aims to save approximately 3,400 tonnes of CO₂ per year through the improved drying of the paper. The stack will be 25m in height from the ground floor with an air flow of 6m³/second and an air velocity of 18m/second.

Legislation

NRW is satisfied that this decision is compatible 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

All applicable European directives have been considered in the determination of the application.

The site

There are no changes to the site boundary as a result of this variation. An updated site plan has been provided which includes the additional emission point (A7) (document reference: Sofidel UK Baglan site layout indicating new stack location A7). An updated plan is included in the consolidated permit and the operator is required to carry on the permitted activities within the site boundary.

Environmental Risk Assessment

Air

The new emission point A7 will only result in emissions of water vapour which will result in limited environmental impact, there is no environmental standard for water vapour as per current guidance: [Air emissions risk assessment for your environmental permit - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/air-emissions-risk-assessment-for-your-environmental-permit). Therefore, no further risk assessment of air emissions has been completed.

Monitoring

Given there are only emissions to air of water vapour we consider no additional monitoring is required as a result of this variation.

Noise

We consider the risk of additional noise from the exhaust fan to be low, therefore we did not consider a risk assessment was required. We are satisfied that the existing permit condition is suitably protective which states emissions from the activities shall be free from noise and vibration at levels likely to cause pollution outside the site.

Operating techniques

The additional equipment will be managed in accordance with the installations existing operating procedures, as stated in the applications supporting document (Non-

technical report normal variation Sofidel UK Baglan). The location of the new emission point (A7) is given in the updated site plan (Sofidel UK Baglan site layout indicating new stack location A7). Table S1.2 has been updated accordingly in the permit, we have incorporated relevant sections of the application into the permit via Table S1.2.

OPRA

The OPRA score at permit issue is 81. The OPRA score has been updated on our Permitting and Licensing System from 78 to 81, this will lead to a slight increase in subsistence fees.

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