

Notice of request for more information
Environmental Permitting (England and Wales)
Regulations 2016

Notice requiring further information

To: The Company Secretary
Drax Power Station
Drax
Selby
North Yorkshire
YO8 8PH

Application number: PAN-002854

Natural Resources Wales, in exercise of its powers under paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 5 of the above Regulations, requires you to provide the information detailed in the attached schedule. The information is required in order to determine your application for a permit, dated 29th June 2018. The information requested should be sent to the following address by the 29th October 2018.

Information should be sent to:

Saul White
Permitting Service
Natural Resources Wales
Cambria House
29 Newport Road
Cardiff
CF24 0TP

Name	Date
	15/10/18

Saul White, Senior Permitting Officer
Authorised on behalf of Natural Resources Wales

Ffôn/Tel 03000653344
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Trwyddedu Gwasanaeth, Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru, Tŷ Cambria, 29 Heol Casnewydd, Caerdydd. CF24 0TP
Permitting Service, Natural Resources Wales, Cambria House, 29 Newport Road, Cardiff. CF24 0TP

Gwefan/Website www.cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk
www.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg
Correspondence welcomed in Welsh and English

Schedule

Further information is required in relation to your application and noise assessment/modelling. The following information is required;

1. The modelling predictions from the model files which were submitted do not correspond with those in the assessment report. The predictions gained from running the submitted modelling files are 1-2 decibels higher at sensitive receptors than those quoted in the report. Please clarify this discrepancy.
2. The sound power level used for the turbine casing in the submitted modelling does not correspond with the report, which states that the sound pressure level would be 85 dB(A) at one metre from the turbine casing. Within the noise modelling the predicted sound pressure level is 80 dB(A) at 1 metre. Please confirm the proposed level of the noise source for the turbine housing and whether it has been correctly represented in the noise modelling. If the sound power level is incorrect in the modelling, please assess the noise impact using the correct sound power level.
3. A character correction of +2dB(A) has been added to the model stating that *"In this case, typical octave band data for the proposed turbine and generator equipment has been analysed from example manufacturer's data sheets and is likely to have minor tonal characteristics for which a maximum 2 dB(A) penalty is considered appropriate. Impulsive noise characteristics have been discounted from this assessment. The main noise producing element of the power plant will be the turbine, which will produce a steady noise with no impulsive characteristics."* The octave band data supplied in the model does not appear to be 'typical'. Please provide the octave band data referred to and explain why it hasn't been used in the model as a sound power level, and further justify the assumptions regarding the +2dB(A) character correction. Further to this, when using the lower turbine casing power level, the predicted noise levels at NSR1 shows that the stack source has similar levels at this receptor and therefore isn't dominated by the turbine casing as claimed.
4. As the Installation will not operate continuously, please justify why an intermittency penalty as detailed in BS4142:2014 has not been applied to the modelling assessment.
5. In Table 2 of the report "Baseline Noise Survey" and in Table 11 "Summary of Daytime Assessment for Receptor NSR5" it is stated that the background value is 55dB(A) L_{A90} . This is higher than the reported $L_{Aeq,T}$ of 47dB(A), suggesting the L_{A90} value in the table is wrong. In Table 3e of Appendix 3, the mode L_{A90} value is 45dB(A). It is therefore likely the assessment of daytime noise impact at NSR5 is incorrect. Please clarify this discrepancy.

6. In relation to the context argument put forward, it is noted in BS 4142:2014 and the BS 4142:2014 examples, residual and absolute sound levels can form part of the considerations when determining the context of a noise impact. Paragraph “1)” of Section 11 of BS 4142:2014 states *“Where background sound levels and rating levels are low, absolute levels might be as, or more, relevant than the margin by which the rating level exceeds the background. This is especially true at night. Where residual sound levels are very high, the residual sound might itself result in adverse impacts or significant adverse impacts, and the margin by which the rating level exceeds the background might simply be an indication of the extent to which the specific sound source is likely to make those impacts worse.”* In this case, the background at NSR1 is 29dB(A) LA90 and the power station rating level is 44dB(A). Therefore, although it could be said that the background level is low, this may not be the case for the rating level. Please provide further detail and justification for the context argument put forward in the assessment report.

End of Schedule

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Ebost/Email

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