

Notice of request for more information

Environmental Permitting (England and Wales)
Regulations 2016

Notice requiring further information

To: **Company Secretary and/or Director
IQE Silicon Compounds Ltd
Beech House
Pascal Close
St Mellons
Cardiff
South Glamorgan
CF3 0LW**

Application number: PAN-024249

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 07/08/2024. The information requested should be sent to the following address by 04/10/2024.

Information should be sent to:

Permitting Service
Natural Resources Wales
Crown Buildings
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

Name	Date
William Wallace	19/09/2024

Authorised on behalf of Natural Resources Wales

Ffôn/Tel 0300 065 4448
Ebost/Email william.wallace@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk
William.wallace@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

Gwasanaeth Trwyddedu, Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru, Adeilad y Goron, Parc Cathays, Caerdydd, CF10 3NQ
Permitting Service, Natural Resources Wales, Crown Buildings, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ

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

1. Air Quality Modelling

1.1 You need to provide additional information assessing impact upon the Severn Estuary SAC / SPA / Ramsar Site / SSSI

The Air Quality Modelling (document reference: Air Quality Assessment IQE 80 GAN PERMITTING included in the revised submission in January 2024) does not assess the impact of nitrogen deposition at the Severn Estuary SAC / SPA / Ramsar Site / SSSI. This site is within the relevant screening distance of your site and it's features have critical load values which you need to assess your proposal against.

You need to complete this assessment and provide us with an updated report (or an addendum to the report) including any additional modelling files or calculations.

2. Noise Impact Assessment

2.1. You need to include the noise from the existing plant at your site in your modelling and Noise Impact Assessment

Section 5.1 of the Noise Impact Assessment (document reference: Noise Impact Assessment IQE PERMIT APPLICATION Version 3) states: *“The existing noise source from IQE and other nearby industrial sites are considered as residual sound sources and part of the existing sound environment. Therefore, they are not included in the noise modelling”*.

However, the Noise and vibration management: environmental permits guidance¹ states the following *“When you apply for a variation, do not include noise from the existing site (before changes) as part of the background or the residual sound levels. Your noise impact assessment must consider all the noise resulting from the proposed variation – the existing site and the variation together. Show both components clearly and then add them together to give a new total for site noise at the receptors. The impact assessment will be based on this new value, known as the ‘specific level’ in BS 4142.”*

You need to redo the modelling and Noise Impact Assessment, including the existing plant and provide us with the updated assessment.

¹ [Noise and vibration management: environmental permits - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/noise-and-vibration-management-environmental-permits)

2.2. You need to submit background data that is free of influence from the site (IQE) and reflect typical conditions

We have identified that the background sound levels used had been taken from the existing noise impact assessment used for the nearby data centres. The background for the 2018 survey included noise sources from that include noise sources from IQE including “Plant operating at the adjacent IQE site”² as well as the 2019 survey referencing “*hum from plant*” and “*Plant noise*”³.

As per our guidance, background sound levels must be free from influence from the site: “*When considering overall site impact, you must make sure background sound levels at NSRs are not influenced by site noise*”.

2.3. You need to provide calculation steps for the stated interpolation for background at Edmundsbury Road

Following the review of the response to the not duly made letter previous response for how the background at Edmundsbury Road were derived (received 22/07/2024), provide **calculation steps for the stated interpolation**.

2.4. You need to provide further information regarding the assessed noise sources

We need the following information:

- Evidence for the assumed source information and modelled sound power level. This should include (but is not limited to) confirmation that if the data is either taken from technical specification or was taken from measurement of the equipment.
- It was assumed that the as water cooler chiller was located indoors the contribution would be negligible due to the sound reduction provided by the building façade. You need to provide evidence this is the case by providing the internal sources in the within the model and the model output.
- The assessment of the submitted model appears to show that the some of the equipment being included as part of the variation (Air handling units (AHUs) GaN reactors and gas bunker exhaust fan) are not included in the modelled scenario. You need to review your modelling and check these are included in the model scenarios (and provide updated modelling and NIA if they are not).

² Table 4-3 Noise Impact Assessment IQE PERMIT APPLICATION Version 3

³ Table 4-4 Noise Impact Assessment IQE PERMIT APPLICATION Version 3

2.5. Please note that the points 2.1-2.4 were based on high level review of the noise impact assessment and modelling. When you resubmit the noise impact assessment and noise modelling please ensure that this is carried out in accordance with the guidance [Noise and vibration management: environmental permits - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/noise-and-vibration-management-environmental-permits) and the method implementation document: [Method implementation document \(MID\) for BS 4142 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/method-implementation-document-mid-for-bs-4142)

3. Noise Management Plan

Should an adverse impact be identified following the above points being addressed you will need to review and update your Noise Management Plan in line with our guidance and submit this to us.

End of schedule

