

Tata Steel UK – Port Talbot Steelworks

Initial submission ref: PAN-029148
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Tata Steel submitted an initial application for a substantial variation to permit number EPR/BL7108IM on 2nd May 2025 (reference PAN-029148). This was to initiate a series of changes related to the transition from traditional blast furnace-based steelmaking at Port Talbot to an electric arc furnace (EAF) based operation. The initial submission did not include all the details that will be required for NRW to assess every aspect of the proposed changes – the agreed way forward was that the details would follow in a series of further technical submissions focussed on different aspects of the overall transformation. An outline timetable of the future submissions under this phased permitting approach (the Engagement Plan) was included in a separate document submitted with the initial application.

This current submission focusses on the relocation of the area where scrap steel arising from current operations on the site is sorted, cut up if necessary and stored prior to recovery. These operations were previously undertaken by a contractor under a separate environmental permit but will now be managed by Tata Steel and so will be need to be included in the main permit for the site.

Scrap steel arising from operations at the Port Talbot site has historically been stored and processed to meet the specifications required for recovery within the former Basic Oxygen Steelmaking plant, which ceased operation in September 2024. During the transition period until a new electric arc furnace (EAF) has been commissioned at the site, scrap arising from continuing operations will instead be sent for external recovery. There will still be a need to store such material on-site prior to collection, and to cut up large pieces using shears or oxy-propane torches to facilitate transport.

These activities will be relocated from their current position to minimise the distances travelled across the site and to avoid interference with construction of the EAF and other associated facilities. It is expected that once the arc furnace is operational, these activities will transfer to the main scrap handling area and the scrap will be recovered in the EAF.

It is also possible that small amounts of steel scrap from demolition of decommissioned assets at Port Talbot will be recovered through the same area, though there is very limited capacity to deal with anything beyond the arising scrap. No scrap will be brought onto the Tata Steel site for treatment through this process.

The change requested is the addition of processing and storage of internally-generated clean scrap to the existing environmental permit. This operation does not meet the

criteria for any EPR Schedule 1 activity and so should be included in the permit as a Directly Associated Activity.

No new activities or other relocated activities are included in this current application. These will be subject to separate submissions in the future when sufficient detail is available to undertake comprehensive risk assessments and assess each operation against appropriate technical standards.