

Natural Resources Wales permitting decisions

Maelor Foods Limited – Maelor Poultry Processing Plant

Decision Document

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Variation

The variation number is:	EPR/AB3591ZQ/V003
The operator is:	Maelor Foods Limited
The Installation is located at:	Maelor Poultry Processing Plant, Pickhill Lane, Cross Lanes, Wrexham, LL13 0UE

We have decided to issue the variation for Maelor Poultry Processing Plant operated by Maelor Foods 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

Receipt of application

Maelor Foods Limited operate an installation for slaughtering poultry and processing chicken portions, permit reference EPR/AB3591ZQ. This normal variation it to vary their environmental permit to include the following changes:

1. Extension of the installation boundary to include a new building to hold lorries with live birds before they are offloaded to the lairage. This will be used when there are delays on the slaughter line. The additional land will also be used for vehicle movements to the new live bird holding building and for general storage.
2. A second gas stunning pit is to be configured to minimise the downtime of the kill line and bottlenecks during peaks in deliveries of live birds.

No other changes will be made as a result of this variation.

Receipt of application

The Application was accepted as duly made on the 11/03/2020. This means we considered it was in the correct form and contained sufficient information for us to begin our determination, but not that it necessarily contained all the information we would need to complete that determination.

The Applicant made no claim for commercial or industrial confidentiality. We have not received any information in relation to the Application that appears to be confidential in relation to any party.

Legislation

The permit will be issued, under Regulation 20 of the EPR. The Environmental Permitting regime is a legal vehicle which delivers most of the relevant legal requirements for activities falling within scope. In particular, the regulated facility is:

- an *installation* as described by the IED;
- subject to aspects of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 which also have to be addressed.

We address the legal requirements directly where relevant in the body of the document. NRW is satisfied that this decision is compatible with its general purpose of pursuing the sustainable management of natural resources (SMNR) in relation to Wales and applying the principles of SMNR. In particular, NRW acknowledges that it is a principle of sustainable management to take action to prevent significant damage to ecosystems. We consider that, in issuing the Permit a high level of protection will be delivered for the environment and human health through the operation of the Installation in accordance with the permit conditions.

The site

As a result of this variation, the site boundary will be increased to accommodate the live bird vehicle holding building and the general storage area. The Operator has submitted a Site Condition Report which provides us with details on the condition of the additional land. Further information on this can be found in the 'Site Condition Report' section below.

The Operator has also submitted a new site plan to be included in Schedule 4 of the Permit Variation Notice. There are no changes to the emission points as a result of this variation.

Site condition report

The operator has provided a description of the condition of the site.

There has been one pollution incident on the 1st November 2001 which involved an oil and fuels spill. There was a minor impact to the local watercourse in the area. Since, there has been no pollution incidents on site.

We consider this description satisfactory. The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance on site condition reports – guidance and templates (H5).

Environmental Risk Assessment

Air

There will be one new point source emission to air associated with the changes proposed by this variation. This will arise from the extraction vents at the rear of the live bird vehicle holding building when the vehicles are parked inside. There may be a small level of odour arising from

the holding building. The Operator has included measures to be put in place if odour levels rise. Further information can be found in the 'Odour' section below.

Emission limits

There will be no quantitative monitoring or sampling of this emission point.

Water

There will be no new point source releases to water, land or sewer from the installation as a result of this variation. The cleaning effluent from the holding building will be treated in our existing wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). The building will only require intermittent cleaning and the increase in wastewater flow from this area is a small fraction of the overall wastewater volume to be treated by the WWTP.

Surface water drainage from the new building will be linked into the existing surface water drainage systems. A revised site drainage plan has been submitted as part of this variation.

The emissions to the River Dee from emission point W1 will remain the same within the permit boundary.

Based upon the information in the application we are satisfied that the appropriate measures will be in place to prevent pollution of ground and surface water.

Odour

The Operator has submitted an Operational Odour Management Plan with the variation Application.

The Operator has stated that odours may arise from the live bird vehicles when they are in the hold building. The odours will be associated with the faeces emitted by the birds during transit. They have also stated that there may be a short-term low-level odour associated with the air exhausted out of the building while vehicles are inside the holding building but this will be very infrequent and short duration. Any odour will be similar but no worse than that from the lairage building exhaust which is discharged directly to air. It is not proposed to undertake any treatment of this emission to air. However the Operator has stated, if after operational experience the odour from the holding building is proven to cause unacceptable offsite odour

concentrations, we have made provision to install a scrubber at the rear of the building to treat the exhausted air.

Monitoring

We have decided that the additional emission point doesn't require any monitoring.

Reporting

No additional reporting is required as a result of the variation.

Operating techniques

We have reviewed the techniques used by the operator and compared these with the relevant guidance notes.

The following changes have been made to the management systems:

- Odour Management Plan has been revised to include the assessment of odour emission from the new live bird holding building.
- Environmental impact assessments and the Aspects and Impacts Register have been reviewed but the generic controls already address noise and odour emissions from the new live bird holding building so are unchanged. These documents have been updated to cover the controls for preventing water pollution from site drainage and the risks of oil contamination from vehicle movements.

A documented preventative maintenance system is in place and the new facilities are to be included in this. Key plant such as extraction systems and fans will be included. Copies of these documents and associated records are available on request and will be readily available for viewing by the sites NRW Regulatory Officer.

OPRA

The OPRA score at permit issue is 83.

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