

Natural Resources Wales permitting decisions

Hendre Poultry Ltd (Hendre Poultry Unit) Decision Document

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Variation

The variation number is: EPR/GP3130VZ/V004

The applicant/operator is: Hendre Poultry Ltd

The installation is located at: Hendre Poultry Unit, Hendre, Felindre, Knighton, Powys, LD7 1YT

We have decided to issue the variation for Hendre Poultry Unit operated by Hendre Poultry Ltd. This will allow the operator to operate a biomass boiler and two combined heat and power (CHP) units at the installation, subject to conditions set out in the permit.

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

The application was received at Natural Resources Wales (NRW) on 22nd June 2020 and was accepted as duly made on 5th September 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.

Confidential information

The applicant made no claim for commercial confidentiality. We have not received any information in relation to the application that appears to be confidential in relation to any party.

Identifying confidential information

We have not identified information provided as part of the application that we consider to be confidential. The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance on commercial confidentiality.

Consultation

Due to the nature of the application, there was no requirement to advertise it or consult on it externally.

A copy of the application and all other documents relevant to our determination are available for the public to view. Anyone wishing to see these documents could arrange for copies to be made.

Operator

We are satisfied that the operator is the person who will have control over the operation of the facility after the issue of the variation. The decision was taken in accordance with EPR RGN 1 'Understanding the meaning of operator'.

The facility

The installation is subject to the Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR) because it carries out an activity listed in Schedule 1 Part 2 of EPR:

- Section 6.9 Part A(1)(a)(i) Rearing poultry in an installation with more than 40,000 places.

An installation may also comprise “directly associated activities”, which at this installation includes.

- Dirty water tank

Together, these listed and directly associated activities comprise the installation.

Legislation

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 variation 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.

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

The site

The installation comprises of four poultry houses, accommodating a maximum of 175,000 broiler chickens. The birds are housed at one day old and the houses are depopulated when the birds are around 33 to 39 days of age. Between cycles the houses are empty for approximately 7 days, giving between 7 to 7.5 cycles per annum and producing between 1,225,000 and 1,313,000 birds per annum. The birds are delivered and removed on an “all in all out” basis.

The operator has applied to vary their permit to include a biomass boiler and two identical combined heat and power (CHP) units. These will pre-warm the houses via blown air from hot water radiators, before bird arrival. The CHP units use virgin woodchip as fuel and the biomass boiler is fuelled by straw or virgin woodchip. Each CHP unit has a thermal input of 105kW and the biomass boiler has a thermal input of 199kW, giving a total thermal input of 409kW.

The houses are fitted with high velocity roof extraction fans. Water is via a nipple drinking system fitted with cups to reduce leakage and spills, leading to drier litter. Birds are fed a minimum of three diets during their growth, with gradually reducing levels of protein and phosphorus as the birds age. Feed is delivered from a UKAS accredited feed mill and blown in to bulk feed bins situated at the ends of the houses. From the feed bins the feed is piped into the houses and distributed to the birds via a pan feeding system.

Fallen stock is securely stored in vermin proof containers to await regular collection by a licenced renderer. At depletion the litter is removed from the site and spread on to operator controlled land. The site is then pressure washed, disinfected and dried out prior to the cycle beginning again. All wash waters are contained in a sealed underground tank which is emptied and removed with the litter.

The operator has provided an updated layout/drainage plan which we consider is satisfactory, showing the location of the new biomass boiler and CHP units.

The updated plan will be included in the permit and the operator is required to carry on the permitted activities within the site boundary.

Site condition report

Due to the nature of the variation application (no addition of land), the operator was not required to provide a description of the condition of the site.

Biodiversity, heritage, landscape and nature conservation

Risks to sites of heritage, landscape or nature conservation, and/or protected species or habitats from the new biomass boiler would be via emissions to air.

Due to the reasons set out below, we are satisfied that there is no conceivable impact pathway to any Natura 2000 site (Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Special Protection Areas (SPAs)/Ramsars/Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) or CRow Appendix 4 assessment was not required.

NRW has adopted the Environment Agency's position statement on 'Biomass boilers on EPR intensive farms' (May 2013), which states that air emissions from small biomass boilers burning virgin timber are not likely to pose a significant risk to the environment or human health providing certain criteria are met.

Our position is that a quantitative assessment of air emissions is not required where:

- The fuel is derived from virgin timber, and;
- The biomass boiler appliance and its installation meets the technical criteria to be eligible for the Renewable Heat Incentive, and;
- The aggregate boiler net rated thermal input is:
 - o less than 0.5MWth, or;
 - o less than 1MWth where the stack height is greater than 1 metre above the roof level of any buildings within 25 metres (or where there are no buildings within 25 metres, the stack height must be a minimum of 3 metres above ground) and there are:
 - no SACs, SPAs, Ramsar sites or SSSIs within 500 metres of the emission point(s);
 - no National Nature Reserves, Local Nature Reserves, ancient woodlands or local wildlife sites within 100 metres of the emission point(s), or;
 - o less than 2MWth where, in addition to the above criteria for less than 1MWth boilers, there are:
 - no sensitive receptors within 150 metres of the emission point(s).

The operator proposes to have one biomass boiler with a thermal input of 199kW, and two CHP units with a thermal input of 105kW each. The total net rated thermal input is therefore 409kWth (0.409MWth), which is less than 0.5MWth. The CHP units use virgin woodchip as fuel and the biomass boiler is fuelled by straw or virgin woodchip. The operator has provided evidence in their application that both the CHP units and the biomass boiler meet the criteria to be eligible for the Renewable Heat Incentive. We are therefore satisfied that the new boiler and CHP units are not likely to pose a significant risk to the environment or human health.

As stated in our position statement, the applicant only needed to submit the following documents as part of the application:

- A non-technical summary;
- Data and information relating to the boiler that demonstrates the above criteria are being met;
- A revised site plan showing the location of the boiler, stack and associated fuel storage.

All relevant documents were received as part of the application and deemed satisfactory.

Environmental Risk Assessment

Air

The developments proposed by this variation meet the criteria in NRW's adopted position statement on 'Biomass boilers on EPR intensive farms' (see above) which means that an assessment of emissions to air is not required. We are satisfied that air emissions from the new biomass boiler and CHP units are not likely to pose a significant risk to the environment or human health.

Water

Developments proposed in this variation will not cause emissions to water.

Soil

Developments proposed in this variation will not cause emissions to soil.

Odour

The developments proposed by this variation meet the criteria in NRW's adopted position statement on 'Biomass boilers on EPR intensive farms' (see above) which means that an odour assessment is not required. We are satisfied that the risk from the new biomass boiler and CHP units of odour pollution at nearby receptors is not significant.

Noise

The developments proposed by this variation meet the criteria in NRW's adopted position statement on 'Biomass boilers on EPR intensive farms' (see above) which means that a noise assessment is not required. We are satisfied that the risk from the

new biomass boiler and CHP units of noise pollution to nearby receptors is not significant.

Fugitive emissions

The developments proposed by this variation meet the criteria in NRW's adopted position statement on 'Biomass boilers on EPR intensive farms' (see above) which means that an assessment of fugitive emissions is not required. We are satisfied that the risk from the new biomass boiler and CHP units of pollution from fugitive emissions is not significant.

Monitoring

No new monitoring requirements have been imposed due to this variation.

Reporting

No new reporting requirements have been imposed due to this variation.

Operating techniques

We have reviewed the techniques proposed by the applicant and compared these with the relevant guidance notes. We are satisfied that the techniques represent appropriate measures for the installation in line with BAT standards in Sector Guidance Note (SGN) EPR 6.09 'How to comply with your environmental permit for intensive farming'.

The permit conditions

Updating permit conditions during consolidation

We have updated previous permit conditions to those in the new generic permit template as part of permit consolidation. The new conditions have the same meaning as those in the previous permit(s). The operator has agreed that the new conditions are acceptable.

Use of conditions other than those from the template

Based on the information in the application, we do not consider that we need to impose conditions other than those in our permit template, which was developed in consultation with industry having regard to the relevant legislation.

Raw materials

We have specified limits and controls on the use of raw materials and fuels. The fuel for the biomass boiler must be virgin timber (including wood chips and pellets), miscanthus or straw.

Waste types

This variation will not impact the specified the permitted waste types, descriptions and quantities, which can be accepted at the regulated facility.

Pre-operational conditions

There are no new pre-operational conditions as a result of this variation.

Improvement conditions

There are no new improvement conditions as a result of this variation.

Conditions where the consent of another person is needed

Based on the information submitted in the application, we do not consider that it is necessary to impose conditions where the consent of another person is needed.

Incorporating the application

We have specified that the applicant must operate the permit in accordance with descriptions in the application, including all additional information received as part of the determination process. These descriptions are specified in the Operating Techniques table in the permit.

Operator Competence

Environment management system

There is no known reason to consider that the operator will not have the management systems to enable it to comply with the permit conditions. The decision was taken in accordance with RGN 5 on Operator Competence.

Technical competence

N/A

Relevant convictions

Our Enforcement Database has been checked to ensure that all relevant convictions have been declared.

No relevant convictions were found.

Financial provision
N/A

OPRA
N/A