

Natural Resources Wales permitting decisions

Variation

We have decided to grant the variation for Cilgwyn Landfill operated by Cyngor Gwynedd Council.

The variation number is EPR/KP3094FZ/V004

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.

Structure of this document

- Key issues
- Annex 1 the decision checklist

Key issues of the decision

Application Background

The Operator submitted an application to Surrender the permit (EPR/PP3539NV) associated with the Leachate Treatment Plant at Cilgwyn Landfill site.

As part of this application the operator requested that the discharge of leachate through the Drainage Adit, and the associated emission limits associated with this discharge were regulated under the closed landfill permit (EPR/KP3094FZ).

Subsequently, this application (EPR/KP3094FZ/V004) was submitted to incorporate the above change into the closed landfill permit.

Background to the Leachate Treatment Plant and Discharge

The original purpose of the Leachate Treatment Plant (LTP) was to treat the leachate from the Cilgwyn Landfill, the leachate produced from the site is dilute and non-hazardous.

Following the capping of the landfill, modelling was undertaken which had predicted that there would be an increase in concentration of Ammoniacal Nitrogen at the Drainage Adit, which had the potential to breach the 50mg/l emission limit.

As a result, the operator installed the Leachate Treatment Plant to treat the discharge prior to release via the Discharge Adit with the aim of ensuring the Ammoniacal Nitrogen levels were below the permitted emission limit of 50mg/l. This was considered a Best Available Technique for dealing with this type of discharge at the time.

Since the closure of the Cilgwyn Landfill site and the installation of the Leachate Treatment Plant the operator has undertaken a regular sampling campaign on the discharge via the LTP this included:

1. LTP Influent – a sample taken prior to treatment through the LTP
2. LTP Effluent – a sample following treatment by the LTP
3. Drainage Adit Consent. A sample taken at the tributary of the river Llyfni.

The operators monitoring (Based on a range of 148-186 sampling occasions) over the 5 year period between October 2014 and September 2019 concentrations at all three of the above locations were found to be below the compliance limits.

As the influent sampling results demonstrated the influent samples were well within the final discharge compliance limits with out any treatment the operator requested to remove the LTP from the permit as it was unnecessary.

The LTP Surrender Application (EPR/PP3539NV/S003) was determined alongside this application.

Reverting the Leachate Monitoring and Compliance Requirements Back to the Closed Landfill Permit

Although the Operator has proposed to turn off and surrender the Leachate Treatment Plant the regular monitoring of the surface water discharge (including leachate) from the closed landfill remains a permitted requirement.

The Operator has requested via this application (EPR/KP3094FZ/V004) that the surface water monitoring requirements and compliance limits from the surrendered are reverted back to the closed landfill permit.

This application therefore transfers the current monitoring requirements and compliance limits as listed in EPR/PP3539NV/V002 over to the closed landfill permit EPR/KP3094FZ/V004. These emission limits and monitoring requirements remain unchanged.

The only change is that the discharge now take place without treatment through the LTP. As the emission limits and monitoring requirements remain unchanged we do not consider there to be an increase to environmental risk from this variation.

Annex 1: decision checklist

This document should be read in conjunction with the Duly Making checklist, the application and supporting information and permit/ notice.

Aspect considered	Justification / Detail	Criteria met
Operator		
Control of the facility	<p>We are satisfied that the applicant (now the operator) is the person who will have control over the operation of the facility after the grant of the permit.</p> <p>The decision was taken in accordance with EPR RGN 1 Understanding the meaning of operator.</p>	✓
European Directives		
Applicable directives	All applicable European directives have been considered in the determination of the application.	✓
Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SMNR)		
Considerations of SMNR - Compliance with our General Purpose	We are satisfied that this decision is compatible with our general purpose of pursuing the sustainable management of natural resources in relation to Wales and applying the principles of sustainable management of natural resources.”	✓
The site		
Extent of the site of the facility	<p>The operator has provided a plan which we consider is satisfactory, showing the extent of the site of the facility</p> <p>The plan is included in the updated closure plan which has been added to the operating techniques table of the permit and the operator is required to carry on the permitted activities within the site boundary.</p>	✓
Biodiversity, Heritage, Landscape and Nature Conservation	<p>The application is within the relevant distance criteria of a site of heritage, landscape or nature conservation, and/or protected species or habitat .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moel Tryfan SSSI • Cors Llanllyfni SSSI • Glynfinion SSSI • Corsydd Eifionydd / Eifionydd Fens SAC • Glynfinion SAC <p>No FORM 1 or Appendix 4 completed:</p>	✓

Aspect considered	Justification / Detail	Criteria met
		Yes
	<p><u>HRA/Appendix 4 are not required</u></p> <p>This variation does not change the risk of emissions from the site impacting a Site of Special Site of Scientific Interest, Natura 2000, or Ramsar site. We therefore have not re-assessed the potential for the site to impact the above listed designated sites.</p>	
Environmental Risk Assessment and operating techniques		
Environmental risk	The proposed changes (as outlined in the <i>key issues</i> section above) does not change the environmental risk of the site. Therefore the operator was not required to provided a Environmental Risk Assessment in support of this application.	✓
Operating techniques	In support of their application the operator provided an updated Closure Plan which has been added to the operating techniques table within the permit.	✓
The permit conditions		
Emission limits	<p>Due to the nature of the application submitted by the operator (as outlined in the <i>key issues</i> section above) we have introduced emission limits for point source emissions to water.</p> <p>These parameters and emission limits are carried over from the surrendered Leachate Treatment Plant permit (EPR/PP3539NV).</p>	✓
Monitoring	<p>Due to the nature of the application submitted by the operator (as outlined in the <i>key issues</i> section above) we have introduced additional monitoring in regards to point source emissions to water. This monitoring should be carried out for the parameters listed in the permit, using the methods detailed and to the frequencies specified.</p> <p>These parameters and monitoring standards and frequencies have been carried over from the surrendered Leachate Treatment Plant permit (EPR/PP3539NV).</p>	✓
Reporting	Due to the nature of the application submitted by the operator (as outlined in the <i>key issues</i> section above) we have introduced additional reporting in regards to point source emissions to water. We have specified reporting in the permit.	✓

Aspect considered	Justification / Detail	Criteria met
		Yes
	The reporting frequencies have been carried over from the surrendered Leachate Treatment Plan Permit (EPR/PP3539NV).	