

Natural Resources Wales permitting decisions

IQE (Europe) Limited – St Mellons Semiconductor Plant

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Variation

The variation number is: EPR/KP3235SS/V004

The applicant /operator is: IQE (Europe) Limited

The Installation is located at: St Mellons Semiconductor Plant, Cypress Drive, St Mellons, Cardiff, South Glamorgan, CF3 0LW

We have decided to issue the variation for St Mellons Semiconductor Plant operated by IQE (Europe) 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

Operator

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. The decision was taken in accordance with EPR RGN 1 Understanding the meaning of operator. There is no change to the Operator due to the variation.

The facility

There is no change to the regulated facility due to the variation. There is no change to the listed activities. The variation is to increase the bulk anhydrous ammonia storage at the site from 1000 kg to 2000 kg or 2 tonnes, they will be a maximum of 4x 500 kg tanks stored at the site at any one time. There is no change to the 'COMAH' status of the site and it remains a Lower Tier COMAH site.

Legislation

NRW is satisfied that this decision is compatible with its general purpose of pursuing the sustainable management of natural resources in relation to Wales and applying the principles of sustainable management of natural resources

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

The site

There is no change to the site plan, emission points or site boundary due to the variation.

Environmental Risk Assessment

There is no change in any emissions from the installation due to the variation, therefore, no environmental risk assessment has been completed. The Operator has stated that as per currently permitted there will only ever be two tanks of ammonia connected to the production system, the related point source emission to air is emission point A1. The variation is only to increase the amount of anhydrous ammonia stored on the site not increase the amount of anhydrous ammonia in use within the production process. The Operator has stated they will continue to operate well below the current Emission Limit Value (ELV) on the permit (emission point A1) for ammonia.

The location at where the anhydrous ammonia will be stored is the same as currently is which is considered suitable. The ground on which the ammonia is stored is concrete and fencing with a lockable gate will be installed for security.

Operating techniques

We have reviewed an updated Accident Management Plan that incorporates the requested maximum inventory of anhydrous ammonia at the site. We are satisfied that appropriate management systems and management structures will be in place for this Installation, and that sufficient resources are available to the Operator to ensure compliance with all the Permit conditions.

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.