

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA/JJ/3346/21

Clare Pillman
Chief Executive
Natural Resources Wales
Cambria House
29 Newport Road
Cardiff
CF24 0TP

6 October 2021

Dear Clare

Re: Uskmouth Power Station

Direction issued by the Welsh Ministers to the Natural Resources Body for Wales: application by SIMEC Uskmouth Power Ltd. to vary an environmental permit pursuant to the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016

Background

The current operator, SIMEC Uskmouth Power Ltd., has applied to Natural Resources Wales ('NRW') to vary the existing environmental permit for Uskmouth Power Station, to allow the installation to burn waste-derived fuel pellets instead of coal. This means that the facility would become a large-scale energy from waste facility.

It is Welsh Government policy, contained in the strategy document "Beyond Recycling", and reflected in the Ministerial Statement published by Lesley Griffiths (MS) in March 2021, that there be a presumption against new large-scale energy from waste facilities in Wales, for reasons explained more fully in the strategy document.

The potential for Uskmouth to become an energy from waste facility therefore directly engages key Welsh Government policy in this area. In light of this, I consider the application to be of substantial significance and I am minded that it would be appropriate for the Welsh Ministers to determine the permit variation application. I therefore make the following Direction.

Direction

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

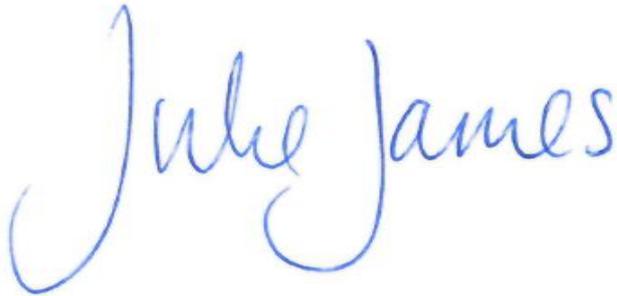
Gohebiaeth.Julie.James@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Julie.James@gov.Wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Pursuant to the power in regulation 63(1) of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016¹, I direct the Natural Resources Body for Wales ('NRBW') to refer the application by SIMEC Uskmouth Power Ltd – to vary an environmental permit in relation to Uskmouth Power Station – to the Welsh Ministers for determination. This Direction has effect immediately on receipt by NRBW.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie James AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd, un o Weinidogion Cymru
Minister for Climate Change, one of the Welsh
Ministers.

¹ S.I. 2016/1154