

Natural Resources Wales permitting decisions

Variation

We have decided to issue the variation for Rhosddu Farm operated by Mr Martyn Langford.

The variation number is EPR/AB3095HL/V002

The permit variation is to add two 180Kw Combined Heat and Power Units and one 211Kw Biomass Boiler. The total thermal input of the permit will now be 571Kw.

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

- Annex 1 the decision checklist

How We Reached Our Decision

The application was duly made on the 3rd October 2016. This means we considered it was in the correct form and contained sufficient information for us to begin our determination.

With the addition of the two Combined Heat and Power Units and the Biomass Boiler, we can confirm the total thermal input of Rhosddu Farm Poultry Unit is 0.571MW. We then screened the surrounding area according to the "EA Biomass Boiler Position Statement May 2013" which has been adopted by NRW to identify any habitats within 500m from SAC, SPA, Ramsar and SSSI, and 100m for NNR, LNR, Ancient Woodland or any local wildlife sites. In accordance to the position statement on biomass boilers and can confirm that HRA is not required because there is no conceivable impact pathway to any Natura 2000/Ramsar site.

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.

What The Regulated Facility Does

Rhosddu Farm Poultry Unit is situated approximately 3.5 kilometres to the south west of the village of Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain in Powys. The installation is approximately centred on National Grid Reference SJ 20483 17208.

The installation is operated by Mr Martyn Langford and will house a maximum of 56,000 laying birds. The birds will be brought to the site at the time that they start to lay eggs and will be removed after approximately 54-64 weeks on an all-out basis. The birds will be housed in three buildings built to the best environmental standards. The birds are able to enter and exit the buildings by means of pop holes and can then range outside. All three houses are equipped with high velocity roof fans for ventilation. There will be two 180Kw Combined Heat and Power Units and one 211Kw Biomass Boiler whose purpose is to partly produce electric for use on the site and partly to provide warm air within the poultry houses. Some biomass drying will take place to ensure the biomass dry matter content is optimum for the units. Litter in house 1 will be removed on an end of crop basis. Houses 2 and 3 are equipped with manure belts which are operated twice per week to remove litter.

After the stock are removed, the remaining litter is removed and the buildings are washed and disinfected. All wash waters are collected in a sealed underground tank.

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
		Yes
European Directives		
Applicable directives	All applicable European directives have been considered in the determination of the application.	✓
Biodiversity, Heritage, Landscape and Nature Conservation	The application is within the relevant distance criteria of a site of heritage, landscape or nature conservation, and/or protected species or habitat. In accordance to the biomass boilers on EPR Intensive farms position statement.	✓
The site		
Site condition report	The operator has provided a description of the condition of the site. We consider this description is satisfactory. The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance on site condition reports – guidance and templates (H5).	✓
Environmental Risk Assessment and operating techniques		
Environmental risk	We have reviewed the operator's assessment of the environmental risk from the facility. The operator's risk assessment is satisfactory.	✓
Operating techniques	We have reviewed the techniques used by the operator and compared these with the relevant guidance notes. The proposed techniques/ emission levels for priorities for control are in line with the benchmark levels contained in the TGN and we consider them to represent appropriate techniques for the facility.	✓