

Natural Resources Wales permitting decisions

Bespoke permit

We have decided to grant the permit for Rhosddu Farm Poultry Unit operated by Mr. Martyn Langford.

The permit number is EPR/AB3095HL.

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
- Annex 2 the consultation and web publicising and responses

Key issues of the decision

Odour

An assessment of the risks of odour from operation of the site, in the form of an odour modelling assessment, was requested. The odour modelling assessment indicated that odour concentrations at sensitive receptors are predicted to be within the odour benchmark levels for moderately offensive odours as described in the Environment Agency's guidance document 'How to comply with your permit – H4 Odour Management', provided that the roof fans on the existing poultry houses are upgraded to ridge level, high velocity fans

with vertical discharge stacks. The highest predicted odour concentration at a sensitive receptor not owned by the farm itself is 1.92 OU_E/m³.

We have included a pre-operational condition in the permit requiring the operator to install the upgraded fans to the existing poultry houses prior to operation of the facility.

We consider that predicted odour concentrations associated with the site will be within acceptable levels at sensitive receptors, provided that the upgrade of the fans on the existing houses is carried out as described above.

Design of Existing Poultry Houses

Further information was requested on the design of the existing houses at the farm to demonstrate that they meet Best Available Techniques (BAT). This additional information was assessed and found to be satisfactory.

Pre-operation Measures

We consider that the operator will need install ridge level, high velocity fans with vertical discharge stack on the existing poultry houses at the site to ensure that emissions of odour at sensitive receptors are kept within acceptable levels. We have included a pre-operational condition in the permit requiring the operator to put these fans in place before activities at the site can take place.

Annex 1: decision checklist

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

Aspect considered	Justification / Detail	Criteria met
		Yes
Consultation		
Scope of consultation	The consultation requirements were identified and implemented. The decision was taken in accordance with “EPR RGN 6 High Profile Sites”, our “Public Participation Statement” and our “Working Together Agreements”.	✓
Responses to consultation and web publicising	The web publicising and consultation responses (Annex 2) were taken into account in the decision. The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance.	✓
Operator		
Control of the facility	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.”	✓
The site		
Extent of the site of the facility	A plan is included in the permit and the operator is required to carry on the permitted activities within the site boundary. A second site layout plan has been included as this shows the site layout within the installation boundary.	✓
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).	✓
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. A full assessment of the application and its potential to affect the sites/species/habitat has been carried out as part of the permit determination process. Specifically Natural Resources Wales carried out a pre-application screening exercise in 2014, reporting that detailed modelling was not	✓

Aspect considered	Justification / Detail	Criteria met
		Yes
	required. The screening reviewed in 2014. We consider that the application will not affect habitats within the relevant screening distances of the site.	
Environmental Risk Assessment and operating techniques		
Environmental risk	We have reviewed the operator's assessment of the environmental risk from the facility. The point source emissions to air specified in the permit are: • ridge level, vertical discharge fan stacks, which will draw air from within the buildings and propel it outwards into the atmosphere; • the exhaust from the back up diesel generator; and • the vent to air on the diesel storage tank. Point source emissions to water specified in the permit are: • uncontaminated rainwater run-off from the roofs of the three poultry houses will drain into the River Vyrnwy via drainage pipes. The wash down water is collected in three underground dirty water tanks during the wash down process after each crop cycle and removed from the site. We have reviewed the risk assessment and the mitigation measures. This includes the management techniques and infrastructure which are in accordance with the Best Available Techniques. We are satisfied that with the use of Best Available Techniques, these risks are adequately controlled. See Key Issues section	✓
Operating techniques	We have reviewed the techniques used by the operator and compared these with the relevant guidance notes. The operator has proposed operating techniques for egg production, feed storage, fuel and chemical storage and dirty water storage in accordance with Sector Guidance Note (SGN) "How to comply with your Environmental Permit for Intensive Farming, EPR 6.09." The proposed techniques for priorities for control are in line with the benchmark levels contained in the SGN EPR 6.09 and we consider them to represent appropriate techniques for the facility. The permit conditions ensure compliance with relevant BREFs and BAT Conclusions, and Emission	✓

Aspect considered	Justification / Detail	Criteria met
		Yes
	Limit Values (ELVs) deliver compliance with BAT-AELs (Associated Emission Levels).	
The permit conditions		
Use of conditions other than those from the template	Based on the information in the application, we 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. Condition 2.3.3 has been included in order to ensure that adequate records are kept of manure or slurry exported from the installation.	✓
Pre-operational measures	Based on the information on the application, we consider that we need to impose a pre-operational condition. We have imposed a pre-operational condition to ensure that the appropriate measures are in place to prevent pollution from odour. See Key Issues section	✓
Emission limits and monitoring	We have reviewed the risk assessment for this site and the Environment Agency technical guidance including Best Available Techniques for Intensive rearing of Poultry and Pigs 2003. We are satisfied that emission limits and associated monitoring are not required in this case. Permit condition 3.2.4 has been included as a result of the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED). However, we only enforce this monitoring where the Operator's risk assessment has stated in their site condition report that there is a risk to groundwater or soil from the activities taking place on the installation.	✓
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.	✓
Relevant convictions	The National Enforcement Database has been checked to ensure that all relevant convictions have been declared. No relevant convictions were found.	✓

Annex 2: Consultation and web publicising responses

Summary of responses to consultation and web publication and the way in which we have taken these into account in the determination process. (Newspaper advertising is only carried out for certain application types, in line with our guidance.)

Response received from
Powys County Council (Environmental Health Department)
Brief summary of issues raised
Powys County Council Environmental Health Department reported that they have no record of any complaints relating to nuisance issues in relation to Rhosddu Farm.
Summary of actions taken or show how this has been covered
N/A