

ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT (REF: EPR/RP3733PC) VARIATION APPLICATION

TRECATTI LANDFILL SITE FOCHRIW ROAD, MERTHYR TYDFILL

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Biffa waste services Limited are seeking to modify the landfill operations at Trecatti landfill Site that are currently authorised under Environmental Permit EPR/RP3733PC.

Trecatti Landfill Site is located approximately 3km west of Rhymney at National Grid Reference SO 082077. It is located within an area of historic open-cast coal and ironstone working and lies to the north-west of the Gelligaer and Merthyr Common. The site is immediately surrounded by common land that includes vegetated colliery spoil tips and is used for rough grazing. The nearest residential area is Dowlais Top which lies approximately 200 metres to the northwest of the landfill. Access to the site is from the unclassified Fochriw Road to the east. The main watercourses present in the vicinity are the River Taff and Rhymney River, which flow in a general southerly direction 3.5km west and 2.1km east of the site respectively.

The proposed changes sought specifically relate to the monocell that is currently permitted to receive Stable Non-Reactive Hazardous Waste (SNRHW) in the form of asbestos containing waste materials only, with cover provided in the form of inert wastes. There are no changes proposed to the main non-hazardous landfill operations or the Multipurpose Waste Treatment and Remediation Pad (MWTRP) that are also permitted at the site.

The key changes proposed to the operation of the monocell include:-

- The extension of Schedule 2 Table S2.4 of the permit to include additional waste codes that are classified as Stable Non-Reactive Hazardous Wastes (SNRHW);
- Extend the hazardous characteristics displayed by wastes imported under waste codes 17 05 03 and 19 13 01, limited to inorganic substances only; and
- The discharge of treated waters/leachate from the SNRHW monocell to sewer following initial treatment in the on-site Leachate Treatment Plant (LTP)

All additional and extended waste streams will accord with the criteria for hazardous wastes acceptable at landfills for non-hazardous waste pursuant of the Landfill Directive and Schedule 10 of the Environmental Permitting Regulation 2016 (as amended). These include total waste concentrations and leachable limit values for granular wastes. The additional wastes to be disposed of in the monocell will also extend to wastes from the on-site STF, limited to wastes with only residual contamination following the reduction/removal of hydrocarbons in the treatment process.

Due to the inert nature of the waste currently deposited into the monocell, all waters that currently drain from the deposits are treated by sand filtration methods or similar and discharged to surface water. The revised acceptance criteria for wastes deposited within the monocell will potentially significantly alter the chemistry of the waters that drain from the monocell present a risk to surface water. It is therefore proposed to redirect the water/leachate to the existing leachate treatment plant for treatment and subsequent discharge to sewer via the existing trade effluent consent acquired from Welsh Water.

A review of the potential source of the leachate draining from the wastes has been undertaken and it is determined that it will not exceed any discharge limits or alter the treatment capabilities of the existing treatment facility.

The revised source term of the leachate has also been reviewed against the current Hydrogeological Risk Assessment (HRA). Based on this substances considered and results of the existing HRA, it is considered that the elevation of the monocell relative to basal level of the site, the attenuation provided by the lining system and unsaturated zone, and the dilution available in the aquifer the leachable concentrations of the additional wastes to be deposited in the monocell will not present a significant increased risk to controlled waters. It is also noted that the site was previously permitted as co-disposal landfill site, accepting hazardous and non-hazardous wastes, and therefore that the existing leachate source term is most unlikely to be impacted by wastes subject to the proposed variation.

The extension of the waste types to be deposited in the monocell will also not alter the bulk physical characteristics of the waste beyond those previously considered in the Stability Risk Assessment (SRA) approved for the monocell. On this basis the conclusions of the original SRA for the monocoell remain valid.

The additional wastes will also be non-degradable in nature and will not therefore significantly alter the existing generation potential or management capabilities for landfill gas at the site. The scope of the application will also not alter the risk to local amenity beyond that considered under the current approved assessment. Furthermore, the proposed changes also do not require any modification to the current approved financial provision or closure plan.