

**From:** Chris Williamson  
**To:** SM-Defra-RESP-notifications (DEFRA); Zara Zahair  
**Cc:** Charlotte Pearson; Andy Collier; Bryan Foster  
**Subject:** RE: EPR/BP30255C/V003 We Need More Information About Your Application CRM:0181015  
**Date:** 22 November 2025 15:03:00  
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Dear Zara,

Further to your colleague, Charlotte Pearson's 20<sup>th</sup> November holding email response, which was sent whilst you were on leave last week.

Charlotte's second email sent shortly after her first email, implied that we should take these matters up with you.

When Charlotte sent her first email, I had already emailed (17/11/25) to confirm that we would provide an updated H1 assessment, I had simply asked for an extension of time. Therefore, I don't quite understand the purpose of the third and fourth paragraphs of Charlotte's email. Nevertheless, the information that I emailed to you on the 20<sup>th</sup> November, crossing with Charlotte's email, has addressed those points.

The remaining points that Charlotte raised effectively allege that the application wording about emissions to air is inconsistent. This is not accepted.

Your colleague's perception is out of context. It should not be forgotten that our client applied for the partial transfer of an environmental permit that had a De Facto Installation status. The permit provided for the throughput of 50,000 tonnes per annum and with 5,000 tonnes storage. When the permit was transferred, the Agency varied the permit to allow 98% of the annual throughput (49ktpa) but only 1% (50 tonnes) of the storage capacity. This means that the **'cart'** was transferred without the **'horse'**.

In addition, the Agency included the following words at the top of page 5 of the permit – "All conditions have been varied by the new permit as a result of an application made by the operator". This is incorrect. As you know, our client has now appealed the Agency's decision.

Prior to the transfer, the permit included wording such as "offensive or toxic vapours shall not be discharged from the tanks during filling. If necessary an appropriate scrubbing or absorption system(s) shall be installed". As the permit was not modified by the Agency, when it was previously transferred in 2011 (post the EPR) it was last modified in 2000 as a Waste Management Licence. This meant that a Working Plan formed part of the permit, which covered details such as emissions from storage tank breather valves aka pressure / vent valves (PV).

During the past 33 years, and as currently designed, each and every storage tank had its own emission point to air and these emissions are not abated. Whilst the appeal legally challenges all the variations imposed when the permit was transferred, our client's current variation application has acknowledged that "the H1 assessment for facilities of this type effectively became redundant when the Appropriate Measures guidance applied BAT via the Regulation 61 review of these sector permits. In other words, even if a H1 assessment concludes that emissions are not significant, BAT still requires abatement".

Therefore, all the BAT3 and BAT4 comments are correct. All the individual storage tank vents would be interconnected to a common vent header. If required, the emissions could then be abated by passing the flow through equipment containing activated carbon to produce a single emission point to air. The "if required" point raises a question about what BAT actually requires in these circumstances, i.e., storage not a combustion process. Our client obviously has a *'Legitimate Expectation'* vis-à-vis other permits issued in this waste sector where no abatement of storage tank vents is required.

The H1 assessment has been limited to Test 1, which demonstrates that the emissions to air are not significant. Test 2 cannot be completed due to there being no available official local background concentration data for the parameters used in the assessment. Without this data it is not possible to proceed beyond Test 1. Unfortunately, local background concentration data is now polarised by arguably undue focus on NOx, particulates, carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide, which are not relevant in this case.

Finally, Charlotte provided a GOV.UK link to a risk assessment. Based on the results of the H1 assessment, we suggest that there is no case for producing an air dispersion model.

Is the Agency now able to confirm duly made status before the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025?

Regards

Chris Williamson  
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**From:** Charlotte Pearson <[Charlotte.Pearson@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Charlotte.Pearson@environment-agency.gov.uk)>  
**Sent:** 20 November 2025 10:57  
**To:** Chris Williamson <[cwilliamson@protreat.co.uk](mailto:cwilliamson@protreat.co.uk)>; SM-Defra-RESP-notifications (DEFRA) <[RESP-notifications@defra.gov.uk](mailto:RESP-notifications@defra.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** Zara Zahair <[Zara.Zahair@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Zara.Zahair@environment-agency.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: EPR/BP30255C/V003 We Need More Information About Your Application CRM:0181015

Hello Chris

Thank you for your response. Zara is on leave and has asked me to respond as we are aware you are waiting on our agreement to an extension.

We apologise if our requests have seemed unclear or have caused any frustration, that is not our intention at all. We are simply seeking clarification so we can ensure all the relevant information is submitted to complete the duly making element of the process.

Having assessed the submitted BAT/Appropriate Measures assessment, we consider there to be conflicting information regarding emissions to air:

BAT 3 and Appropriate Measures Guidance (Chemical Waste) section 6.1.2 requires the submission of an emission inventory and the application will need to demonstrate what has the potential to be released. In response (BAT 3, AM 2.3, 4, 6.1, 6.4, 7.1 and 7.2) you have stated *'In order to facilitate the reduction of emissions to water and air, an inventory of waste-water and waste gas streams is maintained.'* In respect of emissions to air, you have not stated what these are or quantified them and there is no assessment of their potential impact as part of the submission.

In your response (BAT 4 and AM 2.1, 2.2, 4, 6.4 and 6.5) you have stated *'emissions of vapour will only occur through displacement during tank filling (through the breather vent and over-flow) or tanker loading (through the tanker manway). With limited emission potential, it is not considered that emissions to air require abating, and this has been confirmed by the results of the H1 Environmental Risk Assessment, which concludes that the emissions to atmosphere are insignificant and require no further assessment.'* However, no H1 assessment was submitted in support of this.

The application and your email below give differing descriptions of the abatement of the tanks and point source emissions to air so we are seeking your clarification on what abatement is in place, how many point source emissions there are and, if there are point source emissions, these will need to be assessed as part of the application.

To explain, within the current submission in response to BAT 3, AM 2.3, 4, 6.1, 6.4, 7.1 and 7.2 it states:  
*'Tanks also include a breather vent to avoid the pressurisation of the tank during transfers. However, as the vapour pressure of mixed waste oil is lower than atmospheric pressure, vapour is only emitted from the tanks or from the manways of the road tankers, through displacement during the short periods of transfer. Passive scrubber through carbon'* (my emphasis). This suggests there are point source emissions from the tanks which are

abated via a carbon scrubber but the detail on the abatement system is limited.

In response to BAT 4 and AM 2.1, 2.2, 4, 6.4 and 6.5, it states:

*'None of the tanks are connected to abatement systems to control releases to air'*. This then suggests there is no abatement so contradicts what is written above.

Now in your email response below, it states *'All storage tank vents will be combined into a common vent header as a single emission point to air after abatement'*. Here it states all emissions are directed via a single emission point after abatement but not what that abatement or where the emission point is and no assessment of it.

Therefore, based on the recent submissions and the information available, we consider that the application does not adequately describe the emissions to air and what the corresponding abatement measures are to demonstrate compliance with BAT and the Appropriate Measures guidance.

For the purposes of duly making, we must ensure all the relevant information is submitted. We consider the application should include a quantified assessment of the emissions to air which can be effectively achieved by completing a risk assessment for emissions to air in accordance with our guidance [Air emissions risk assessment for your environmental permit - GOV.UK](#). **If you need additional time to complete this, we are agreeable to the extension you have suggested to the 26/11/2025.**

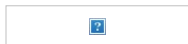
Once we have these details, we can better understand the situation and ensure that all necessary information has been submitted to complete the duly making checks and progress the application.

I hope this has been helpful. If you require anything else, please let us know.

Kind Regards

Charlotte

**Charlotte Pearson**  
Senior Permitting Officer, Installations



Environment Agency | Aqua House, Lionel Street, Birmingham, B3 1AQ

[charlotte.pearson@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:charlotte.pearson@environment-agency.gov.uk)

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**From:** Chris Williamson <[cwilliamson@protreat.co.uk](mailto:cwilliamson@protreat.co.uk)>

**Sent:** 17 November 2025 16:00

**To:** SM-Defra-RESP-notifications (DEFRA) <[RESP-notifications@defra.gov.uk](mailto:RESP-notifications@defra.gov.uk)>

**Cc:** Zara Zahair <[Zara.Zahair@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Zara.Zahair@environment-agency.gov.uk)>; Charlotte Pearson <[Charlotte.Pearson@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Charlotte.Pearson@environment-agency.gov.uk)>; Andy Collier <[andy@qualitechservices.co.uk](mailto:andy@qualitechservices.co.uk)>; Bryan Foster <[bryan@qualitechservices.co.uk](mailto:bryan@qualitechservices.co.uk)>

**Subject:** RE: EPR/BP3025SC/V003 We Need More Information About Your Application CRM:0181015

Dear Zara,

Thank you for sending your latest email after our earlier telecon.

When comparing this email with your previous email, it is clear the 'Duly Made' goalposts have been moved.

Your previous email cited the BAT references that needed to be addressed before the application could be duly made and your previous email also referred to requiring a response to other BAT points only after duly making / before final determination.

Our response to your previous email included BAT references that exceeded what you had asked for.

The Technical Competence information provided for this application is identical to that provided for the transfer application, which was approved. The additional certificate is now attached.

I have attached the proof of payment for the additional fee which you now believe to be relevant because the GIS check was not completed before you sent your previous email.

With regard to emissions to air, as we discussed, storage tanks have to breathe. This has been the case at this site for at least 3 decades and at every other liquid storage facility ever built. If tanks are not allowed to breathe, they explode or implode.

Every storage tank is an emission point, and this has been known to the Agency for the 30 years that the EA has been the regulator for this facility. The H1 assessment for facilities of this type effectively became redundant when the Appropriate Measures guidance applied BAT via the Regulation 61 review of these sector permits. In other words, even if a H1 assessment concludes that emissions are not significant, BAT still requires abatement.

All storage tank vents will be combined into a common vent header as a single emission point to air after abatement. In our experience, with other permits in this sector, the precise abatement details are a matter dealt with after the application has been duly made. This is due to the fact; the Agency does not set Installation emission limits for abated storage tank vents arising from the storage of waste lubricating oils. For example, see Exolum's 75ktpa waste Installation permit reference EPR/SP3496CX.

The H1 assessment previously carried out prior to the submission of the transfer application nearly 3 years ago, is no longer reliable. The Agency issued a new H1 model in April 2024.

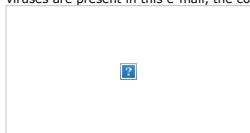
To produce a new H1 assessment we require a short extension to your 21 November deadline to 26 November 2025. The other residual points will be addressed in our next email.

Could you please confirm your agreement to the extended deadline.

Regards

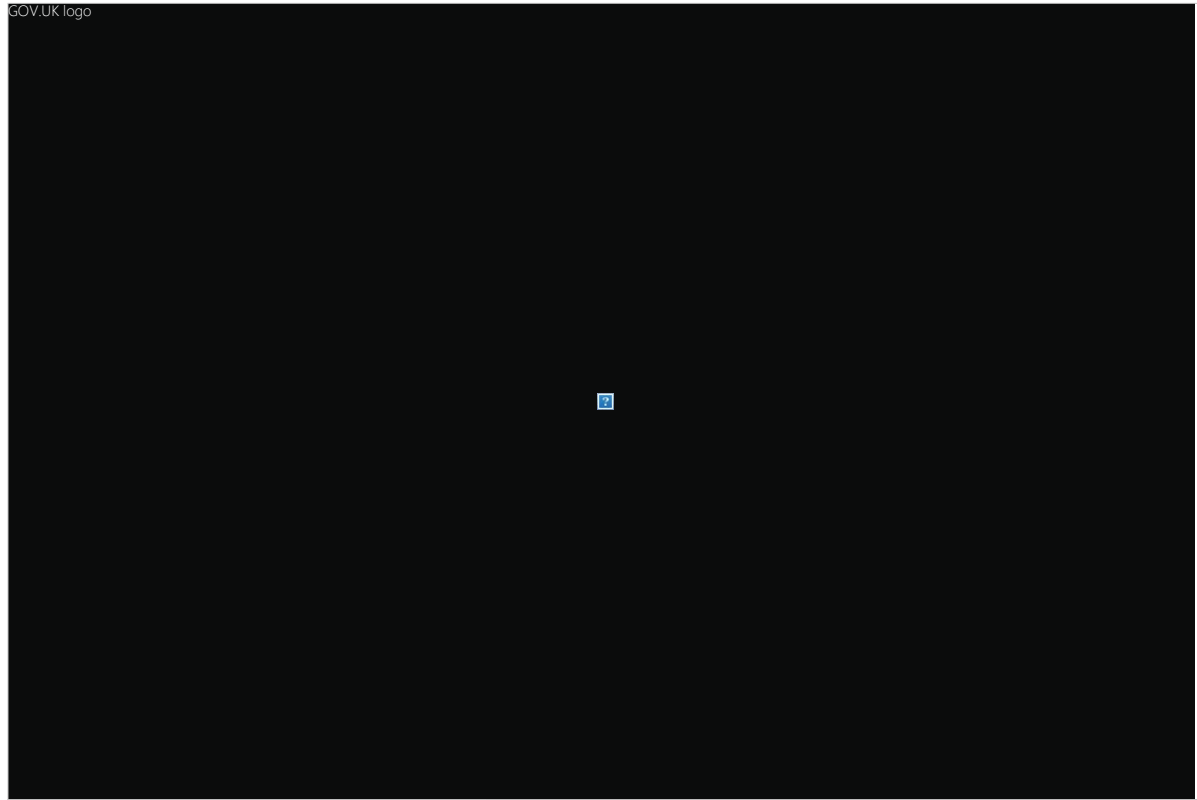
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**From:** SM-Defra-RESP-notifications (DEFRA) <[RESP-notifications@defra.gov.uk](mailto:RESP-notifications@defra.gov.uk)>  
**Sent:** 14 November 2025 14:44  
**To:** Chris Williamson <[cwilliamson@protreat.co.uk](mailto:cwilliamson@protreat.co.uk)>  
**Cc:** Zara Zahair <[Zara.Zahair@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Zara.Zahair@environment-agency.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** EPR/BP30255C/V003 We Need More Information About Your Application CRM:0181015

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Dear Christopher Williamson,

**Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016**

**Application reference:** EPR/BP30255C/V003

**Operator:** QUALITECH ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES LIMITED

**Facility:** Qualichem, Dock Road, West Float, Birkenhead, CH41 1DF

The following is to confirm our conversation of 14/11/2025

Following a review of the documentation submitted, we require further information before we can progress your application.;

We note the following:

A Geographical Information System (GIS) check has identified habitats and designated areas that require a Habitats Regulations Assessment. This assessment is not included in your baseline application fee, therefore an additional payment of £779 is required.

Please provide us with more information to the following questions:

- Update Form C3, Question 2 regarding point source emissions to either list the point source emissions or state 'Not applicable'.
- Submit a copy of the H1 risk assessment of point source emissions to air if applicable.

*Reason: Form C3, Question 2 regarding point source emissions has not been completed. It is therefore unclear if there are point source emissions or not. If this is not applicable, indicate "N/A" in the form. This is important as your QES Appropriate Measures and BAT Assessment document refers to an H1 assessment being completed. However, this has not been submitted with the application. A H1 risk assessment should be completed for all point source emissions and submitted with the application. At present this aspect of the application is unclear.*

- Confirm if tanks used for the storage of waste oils are covered as required by BAT 14.
- Form C2, Question 3: Submit evidence of the primary (original) qualification certificate for Technical Competence to support the continuing competency certificate you have submitted.

Please reply directly to this email with your information and copy in [zara.zahair@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:zara.zahair@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Postal address:  
Integrated Permitting Services  
Quadrant 2  
99 Parkway Avenue  
Parkway Business Park  
Sheffield  
S9 4WF

You must send us the information and or payment by 21/11/2025

Pay online at this link [www.gov.uk/payments/permitting-applications-installations/permitting-application-payment-installations](https://www.gov.uk/payments/permitting-applications-installations/permitting-application-payment-installations)

You need to create your own reference number. Your reference number must follow this format: PSCAPPINSTXXXXXYYY. It should include the first five letters of the company name (replacing the X's in the above reference number) and a unique numerical identifier (replacing the Y's in the above reference number). Email us the reference number and the payment date so we can track your payment.

You can send us this determination information by replying directly to this email with your information and copy in .

[psc@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:psc@environment-agency.gov.uk).

Without this additional information we will be unable to issue your permit.

Note: Our email system has a file size limit of 25MB, if your returns exceed this limit you will have to arrange an online file transfer. Please ensure the file transfer link does not have a time limit on it.

Yours sincerely,

**Zara Zahair**  
Permitting Officer  
Regulated Industry (Installations)  
Mobile Phone: 07385 223618  
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