

Thorverton Road Distribution Hub

Application for a variation of Environmental Permit

Non-Technical Summary

1. Introduction

This non-technical summary forms part of the application to vary the environmental permit (reference EPR/CB3807CF) for Devon Contract Waste Ltd's Thorverton Road Distribution Hub transfer station (the site). The site is currently permitted under standard rules SR2015 No.6 and will be varied to a bespoke waste operation permit for a household, industrial and commercial (HCI) transfer station with treatment.

2. The Site

Thorverton Road Distribution Hub is located on Matford Business Park in Exeter, Devon, EX2 8FS, at National Grid Reference (NGR) SX 93076 89848. The site is permitted as a transfer station for the storage and treatment of household, industrial and commercial wastes prior to recycling and/or recovery.

The site is located approximately 3km south of Exeter city centre and is predominantly surrounded by industrial and commercial units within Matford Business Park, which can be accessed via the A379 to the south of the site. The site is bounded on its northeast side by a railway line, beyond which lies the Exeter Canal and River Exe, and a series of playing fields, which then transitions into residential properties approximately 800m from the permit boundary. The nearest residential properties lie to the south of the site, approximately 700m away.

The Exe Estuary, located approximately 430m east of the permit boundary, is designated as a SSSI, SPA and Ramsar. An area of Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland is located 600m southwest of the site boundary. Local wildlife sites Alphin Brook and the Exeter Ship Canal are located 200m and 275m east of the permit boundary, respectively. There are no further designated habitats within 1km of the site.

3. The Application

Thorverton Road Distribution Hub currently operates under Standard Rules SR2015 No.6 as a HCI transfer station with treatment. It is currently operating with the support of a T11 waste exemption for the treatment of WEEE to improve recycling rates and an S2 waste exemption for the storage of WEEE, including fridges, in external areas and the storage of baled plastic and paper/ cardboard stored in external covered bays.

To allow the external storage of batteries and household WEEE, the varied permit will include the following hazardous EWC codes:

- 16 06 01* lead batteries
- 16 06 02* Ni-Cd batteries
- 16 06 03* mercury-containing batteries

- 16 02 11* discarded equipment containing chlorofluorocarbons, HCFC, HFC
- 16 02 13* discarded equipment containing hazardous components other than those mentioned in 16 02 09 to 16 02 12
- 16 02 15* hazardous components removed from discarded equipment
- 20 01 21* fluorescent tubes and other mercury-containing waste
- 20 01 23* discarded equipment containing chlorofluorocarbons
- 20 01 33* batteries and accumulators included in 16 06 01, 16 06 02 or 16 06 03 and unsorted batteries and accumulators containing these batteries
- 20 01 35* discarded electrical and electronic equipment other than those mentioned in 20 01 21 and 20 01 23 containing hazardous component

The variation will also add a metal recycling activities that will allow for the treatment of WEEE consisting of manual sorting, wire stripping, cutting of cables and cable granulation. Batteries may be subject to manual sorting only.

The varied permit will allow for waste to be stored externally to the main transfer building.

There are no further proposed changes to the permitted activities for the site, which shall continue to align with the conditions of Standard Rules SR2015 No.6.

The maximum permitted annual tonnage of waste accepted at the site shall not exceed 75,000 tonnes. The site shall accept, store and treat no more than 10 tonnes of hazardous waste per day.

4. Supporting Documents

The information provided within this application is in accordance with pre-application advice from the Environment Agency received 30th April 2024, reference EPR/CB3807CF/P001. The enhanced pre-application advice is included within this application.

The application provides the following documents:

- EP1 Cover Letter, providing key details of the application;
- EP2 Contents Page, providing an overview of the application content;
- EP3 Non-Technical Summary, providing a summary of the variation application;
- EP4 Application Forms, including forms A, C2, C4 and F1;
- EP5 Operator Information, providing the details requested in the application forms
- EP6 Pre-Application Information, providing details of the enhanced pre-application advice received;
- EP7 Management Plans, providing the operating techniques, environmental management plans and risk assessments demonstrating the site will operate in accordance with the relevant appropriate measures; and

- EP8 Letter of Authority, providing names of those authorised to sign on SUEZ’s behalf.

A summary of the overall environmental risk from the site and appropriate required Management Plans are summarised below.

Hazard	Overall Risk	Detailed Management Plan Required?
Odour	Low	No - not requested by the EA during pre-application discussions.
Noise	Low	No - not requested by the EA during pre-application discussions.
Pests	Low	No - not requested by the EA during pre-application discussions.
Dust	Low	No - not requested by the EA during pre-application discussions.
Mud/Litter	Low	No - not requested by the EA during pre-application discussions.
Fire	Low	Yes - requested by the EA during pre-application discussions.

The site will continue to operate in accordance with the SUEZ accredited environmental management system, this will ensure that adequate management systems will be used at the site including procedures for monitoring, accident prevention and control of emissions.