

About this consultation

Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited: environmental permit consultation

This briefing note updates you on our determination of the environmental permit variation application that Rathlin Energy (UK) Ltd have applied for. We explain the next phase of public consultation and how you can have your say.

We want to make the best decision when permitting. Listening to the views of others helps us to take account of concerns, or local environmental factors, that we may not be otherwise aware of.

We have reviewed all the comments you sent us, along with the documents submitted by Rathlin Energy (UK) Ltd and have considered all the evidence very carefully.

We are now satisfied that we have all the information we need and cannot find any reason to refuse this permit variation application. We are therefore now 'minded to' grant this permit variation to Rathlin Energy (UK) Ltd. This means we think we may grant the permit variation based on what we know so far, but we have yet to make a final decision. Before we do, we would like you to read our draft decision document and let us know if there is any further new information you would like us to consider.

Please use the reference number EPR/BB3001FT/V006 when making comments on this application.

The draft documents

We have written two documents, the Draft Decision Document and the Draft Permit. The draft decision document explains our thought process and how we have taken on board the comments you sent us in the first consultation. The draft permit outlines the conditions the operator would have to meet.

In these documents we frequently say 'we have decided'. This gives the impression that our mind is already made up, but as we have explained above, we have not yet done so. The language enables them to become the final documents with no more re-drafting than is necessary.

Non-Technical Summary

This variation is to carry out a reservoir stimulation activity on the existing well WNA-2 drilled in 2019, targeting the Permian age Kirkham Abbey Formation at approximately 1.7 km depth, to re-establish permeability within the Kirkham Abbey Formation, having been impeded by formation damage as a result of the initial drilling and completion operation. Reservoir stimulation is the injection of well stimulation fluid into a target formation designed to improve the efficiency of the flow of fluids through the reservoir rock and into the well.

Refer to the non-technical summary which explains this application, in non-technical language.

This should include a summary of the regulated facility, the key technical standards and control measures arising from the risk assessment.

How to Respond

If you would like to comment online, please use the online consultation tool in Citizen Space.

If you'd prefer to submit your response by email, contact PSCpublicresponse@environment-agency.gov.uk

Posting your response to us at: Environment Agency Permitting and Support Centre, Land Team, Quadrant 2, 99 Parkway Avenue, Sheffield, S9 4WF.

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
0345 988 1188

We provided additional information on a web page, to help you understand more about our regulation of this site, what has been applied for, and how to take part in the consultation. This information has moved to a new home, and can be found here: <https://engageenvironmentagency.uk.engagementhq.com/environmental-regulation-of-west-newton-a-well-site>

For those unable to access the internet, we have provided a copy of the draft permit decision in the local Environment Agency office: Crosskill House, Mill Lane, Beverley HU17 9JW.

Once we've reviewed all the feedback we receive, we'll make our final decision.

What happens next?

We will consider all relevant comments we receive during this second consultation. Your comments may affect our decision so we will make our final decision once the consultation has closed and we will use your comments to inform us. You can let us know if you would like your comments to be made public when you submit your response on our Citizen Space consultation portal, or in the text of your email or letter.

Your comments will need to provide us with new information that would cause us to reconsider our decision. The information we are already aware of is outlined and considered in the draft decision document. If no new information comes to light, we will issue the permit to Rathlin Energy (IK) Ltd after the close of the consultation. If we decide to refuse the permit to Rathlin Energy (UK) Ltd, they have the right to appeal our decision.

We will only issue a permit if we believe that harm to the environment, people and wildlife will be minimised and that the operator has the ability to meet the conditions of the permit. Providing a business can prove that the proposed activities meet all the legal requirements, including environmental, technological and health requirements, then we are legally obliged to issue a permit, even if some people do not approve of the decision.

How we will use your information

We will look to make any comments received publicly available at our Environment Agency public register.

All comments which are made publicly available will exclude email addresses and telephone numbers. Any comments where confidentiality has been claimed will not appear on the public register.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we may be required to publish your response to this consultation but will not include any personal information. If you have requested your response to be kept confidential, we may still be required to provide a summary of it.

Consultation Principles

We are running this consultation in accordance with the criteria set out in the government's [Consultation Principles](#).

If you have any queries or complaints about the way this consultation has been carried out, please email: PSCpublicresponse@environment-agency.gov.uk

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