

# Permitting decisions

## Standard rules permit

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We have decided to grant the permit (standard rules SR2015 No1) for Lidsey well site operated by Angus Energy Weald Basin No.3 Limited.

The permit number is EPR/FB3104HQ.

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 provides a record of the decision making process. It summarises the decision making process in the [decision checklist](#) to show how all relevant factors have been taken into account.

This decision document provides a record of the decision making process. It:

- highlights [key issues](#) in the determination
- summarises the decision making process in the [decision checklist](#) to show how all relevant factors have been taken into account

Unless the decision document specifies otherwise we have accepted the applicant's proposals.

Read the permitting decisions in conjunction with the environmental permit. The introductory note summarises what the permit covers.

## Key issues of the decision

During the determination stage of this standard rules permit, we were made aware by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) that oil based muds may be utilised by the operator for drilling at the surface (i.e. for surface casings that could penetrate an aquifer). As this is not permitted under the permit's corresponding waste management plan (WMP3, pages 6 and 24), we queried this information with the operator and requested written confirmation that oil based muds will not be utilised (as per the requirements within WMP3). The operator provided written confirmation on the 02/04/2017 that there is no intention to use oil based drilling muds (OBDMs) at the surface and that all the requirements of WMP3 will be complied with.

Condition 2.2.2 of the Standard Rules Set 2015 No1 states that the permitted activity should not be carried out within 200 metres from the nearest sensitive receptor. Immediately to the south of the site there is a Wastewater Treatments Works (WwTW) operated by Southern Water Service Limited (Lidsey WwTW). The WwTW is attended with typical scheduled attendance at the site of four hours (Monday to Friday). As such this site is not considered to be a sensitive receptor.

We decided to share details of the operator's permit application on our Citizen Space website for information purposes only. We do not ordinarily publicise/consult on a standard rules permit application of this type (a mining waste standard rules application), as confirmed within section 3.3 (page 6 of 15) of our [public participation statement](#).

However, we decided to provide an explanation of the operator's standard rules permit application, as well as copies of the operator's application documents **for public information and awareness purposes only (this information was not intended to generate comments as it is not a statutory consultation)**.

As the application details are simply being provided for information only (and not consultation), there is no set publication timeframe (i.e. a 20 working day period is required for new bespoke permit applications) that must be allowed to elapse before a decision is made to grant/refuse the operator's standard rules permit application. The application documents were made available for viewing on our Citizen Space website from the 06/04/2017 and will remain available until the 06/04/2018.

- Web-link to the application documents for information purposes on our Citizen Space website: <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/psc/information-on-angus-energy/>

## Decision checklist

Aspect considered	Decision
<b>Receipt of application</b>	
Standard rules criteria check	The application meets the criteria for the standard rules applied for.
Confidential information	A claim for commercial or industrial confidentiality has not been made.
Identifying confidential information	We have not identified information provided as part of the application that we consider to be confidential.
<b>Consultation/Engagement</b>	
Consultation	We do not consult on standard rules permit applications of this type (a mining waste standard rules application). This is confirmed within section 3.3 (page 6 of 15) of our public participation statement
<b>Operator</b>	
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 our guidance on legal operator for environmental permits.
<b>The site</b>	
Extent of the site of the facility	The operator has provided a plan which we consider is satisfactory, showing the extent of the site of the facility. The plan is included in the permit.
Waste management plan	For SR2015 No 1  The operator will comply with the generic Waste Management Plan Ref. WMP3 – Waste Management Plan for the management of extractive waste not involving a waste facility, generated from onshore oil and gas prospecting activities of drill, core, leak off well testing, acid wash and decommissioning without well stimulation (using oil and water based drilling mud)
<b>Operator competence</b>	
Management system	There is no known reason to consider that the operator will not have the management system to enable it to comply with the permit conditions.
Technical competence	For mining waste operations, operators are not required to be members of an agreed scheme as there is no scheme with modules that cover mining waste operations
Relevant convictions	The Case Management System and National Enforcement Database have been checked to ensure that all relevant convictions have been declared.  No relevant convictions were found. The operator satisfies the criteria in our guidance on operator competence.

<b>Aspect considered</b>	<b>Decision</b>
Financial competence	There is no known reason to consider that the operator will not be financially able to comply with the permit conditions.
Growth Duty	<p>We have considered our duty to have regard to the desirability of promoting economic growth set out in section 108(1) of the Deregulation Act 2015 and the guidance issued under section 110 of that Act in deciding whether to grant this permit. The conditions imposed under the permit are reasonable and necessary to avoid a risk of an unacceptable level of pollution and are based on our risk assessment undertaken at the time the Rules were made.</p> <p>Application of the Rules to this activity promotes economic growth amongst legitimate operators because the standards applied to the operator are consistent across businesses in this sector and have been set to achieve the required legislative standards.</p>