



Recycling and recovery UK

Haltwhistle Civic Amenity Site

Application to vary an Environmental Permit

Non-Technical Summary

Introduction

This non-technical summary forms part of the application to vary the existing permit (EPR/PP3494ZJ) currently in place at Haltwhistle Civic Amenity Site.

Haltwhistle HWRC (the site) is located at Town Foot, Haltwhistle, Northumberland, NE49 0ET at National Grid Reference (NGR) NY 71182 63952.

The Application

The site currently holds an Environmental Permit (permit), reference EPR/PP3494ZJ to operate a Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) and has previously accepted hazardous waste including waste oil, batteries and WEEE. SUEZ operate the site and several other similar facilities on behalf of Northumberland County Council (NCC) under a Private Finance Initiative contract.

In March 2022, received email correspondence from the local area officer (Hedley Jackson) in connection to the Wooler Civic Amenity Site (EPR/TP3997ZA) which is operated by Northumberland Waste Management Limited, a subsidiary of SUEZ Recycling and Recovery UK Ltd (SUEZ).

As part of the correspondence, SUEZ were advised by the local area officer that the current conditions of the licence are contrary to the wastes that are accepted at the site. For example, Condition B.4 notes that '*No special waste as defined by Regulations in force under Section 62 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 shall be accepted at the site*'. However, due to the repealing of different pieces of legislation, no regulations which define "special waste" are currently in force under Section 62 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. However, Section 17(2)(a) of the Interpretation Act 1978 indicates that Condition B.4 should be interpreted as prohibiting the acceptance of hazardous waste. To rectify this, SUEZ were advised that a variation must be submitted to remove this condition and allow the acceptance of hazardous waste at the Wooler Civic Amenity site.

Following a review of other permits within the Northumberland area, SUEZ have found that the permit for the Haltwhistle Civic Amenity site contains a similar condition in Table 1.2A which states that special waste is not permitted to be accepted. Subsequently, this indicates that the site is not permitted to accept hazardous waste.

In light of the above, this application seeks to vary the permit to:-

- a) Amend the name of the site to 'Haltwhistle Household Waste Recycling Centre' (HWRC).
- b) Remove code R2 from the environmental permit. According to Table S1.1 of the original waste

management licence, R2 refers to the ‘recycling or reclamation of organic substances which are not used as solvents’ as per Part IV of the Waste Management Licensing Regulations 1994. Following the introduction of the Waste Framework Directive in 2008, this activity was renumbered as R3. Code R2 now refers to solvent reclamation/regeneration which is not undertaken at the site and therefore needs to be removed from the permit.

- c) Maintain codes D15, R13, D9, R3, R4 and R5 based on their current descriptions in the Waste Framework Directive.
- d) Add code D14 (Repackaging prior to submission to any of the operations numbered D1 to D13) to the environmental permit. This is a typical disposal code for HWRC facilities.
- e) Regularise the acceptance of hazardous waste.
- f) Add the following waste codes to the permit.

Table 1 - Proposed Waste Codes

EWC Code	Description
13	OIL WASTES AND WASTES OF LIQUID FUELS
13 02	waste engine, gear and lubricating oils
13 02 04*	mineral-based chlorinated engine, gear and lubricating oils
13 02 05*	mineral-based non-chlorinated engine, gear and lubricating oils
13 02 06*	synthetic engine, gear and lubricating oils
13 02 07*	readily biodegradable engine, gear and lubricating oils
13 02 08*	other engine, gear and lubricating oils
15	WASTE PACKAGING; ABSORBENTS, WIPING CLOTHS, FILTER MATERIALS AND PROTECTIVE CLOTHING NOT OTHERWISE SPECIFIED
15 01	Packaging (including separately collected municipal packaging waste)
15 01 01	paper and cardboard packaging
15 01 02	plastic packaging
15 01 03	wooden packaging
15 01 04	metallic packaging
15 01 05	composite packaging
15 01 06	mixed packaging
15 01 09	textile packaging
15 01 10*	packaging containing residues of or contaminated by dangerous substances
15 01 11*	metallic packaging containing a dangerous solid porous matrix (for example asbestos), including empty pressure containers
15 02	Absorbents, filter materials, wiping cloths and protective clothing
15 02 02*	absorbents, filter materials (including oil filters not otherwise specified), wiping cloths, protective clothing contaminated by dangerous substances
15 02 03	absorbents, filter materials, wiping cloths and protective clothing other than those mentioned in 15 02 02
16	WASTES NOT OTHERWISE SPECIFIED IN THE LIST

16 01	End-of-life vehicles from different means of transport [including off-road machinery] and wastes from dismantling of end-of-life vehicles and vehicle maintenance (except 13, 14, 16 06 and 16 08)
16 01 03	end-of-life tyres
16 05	gases in pressure containers and discarded chemicals
16 05 04*	gases in pressure containers (including halons) containing dangerous substances
16 05 05	gases in pressure containers other than those mentioned in 16 05 04
16 06	Batteries and accumulators
16 06 01*	lead batteries
16 06 02*	Ni-Cd batteries
16 06 03*	mercury-containing batteries
16 06 04	alkaline batteries (except 16 06 03)
16 06 05	other batteries and accumulators
17	CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION WASTES (INCLUDING EXCAVATED SOIL FROM CONTAMINATED SITES)
17 01	Concrete, bricks, tiles and ceramics
17 01 07	mixtures of concrete, bricks, tiles and ceramics other than those mentioned in 17 01 06
17 06	Insulation materials and asbestos-containing construction materials
17 06 04	insulation materials other than those mentioned in 17 06 01 and 17 06 03
17 08	Gypsum-based construction material
17 08 02	gypsum-based construction materials other than those mentioned in 17 08 01
17 09	Other construction and demolition wastes
17 09 04	mixed construction and demolition wastes other than those mentioned in 17 09 01, 17 09 02 and 17 09 03
19	WASTES FROM WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES, OFF-SITE WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANTS AND THE PREPARATION OF WATER INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION AND WATER FOR INDUSTRIAL USE
19 12	Wastes from the mechanical treatment of waste (for example sorting, crushing, compacting, pelletising) not otherwise specified
19 12 06*	Wood containing dangerous substances
20	MUNICIPAL WASTES (HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND SIMILAR COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL WASTES) INCLUDING SEPARATELY COLLECTED FRACTIONS
20 01	Separately collected fractions (except 15 01)
20 01 13*	solvents
20 01 14*	acids
20 01 15*	alkalines
20 01 17*	photochemicals
20 01 19*	pesticides
20 01 21*	fluorescent tubes and other mercury-containing waste
20 01 23*	discarded equipment containing chlorofluorocarbons
20 01 26*	oil and fat other than those mentioned in 20 01 25
20 01 27*	paint, inks, adhesives and resins containing dangerous substances

20 01 29*	detergents containing dangerous substances
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 components
20 01 37*	wood containing dangerous substances

As noted in the list, SUEZ are seeking to add hazardous chemicals to the environmental permit. Most of these codes relate to typical waste streams that can be accepted at relevant HWRCs. In addition, most of the proposed waste codes for hazardous chemicals are permitted to be accepted under the standard rules permit for a HWRC accepting hazardous and non-hazardous waste (SR2015 No.20). With reference to NCC’s website, hazardous household chemicals are not accepted at any of the HWRCs in Northumberland and so householders are advised to use NCC’s collection service. The only exception is waste engine oil which is currently accepted at the HWRCs.

It is key to note that this variation forms part of a batch of permit variations for several HWRCs that SUEZ operate as part of their contract with NCC. One of the key objectives of these permit variations is to ensure that all of the HWRCs that fall under this contract can accept the same waste codes for consistency. Although the HWRCs do not actively accept hazardous household chemicals at the moment, SUEZ would like the ability to accept hazardous chemicals at the sites to ensure operational flexibility in the future.

The information provided within this application is in accordance with advice from the Environment Agency as part of basic pre-application process, reference EPR/ EPR/PP3494ZJ/V003, and subsequent email dated 20th July 2023. The basic pre-application advice is included within this application.

The Environmental Risk Assessment, Accident Prevention & Management Plan and Operations and Emissions Management Plan detail the appropriate management procedures and mitigation measures in place to prevent or minimise the impact of the activities on the environment and human receptors.

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

Table 2 - Summary of Environmental Risk

Hazard	Overall Risk	Detailed Management Plan Required?
Odour	Low	No – Proposed waste codes are considered to have a low odour potential. In addition, there are no proposed changes to how SUEZ will manage potentially odourous wastes (including general and green waste) that are already permitted to be accepted at the site. Nevertheless, the risk of odour has been addressed as part of the Environmental Risk Assessment.

Noise	Low	No – There are no proposed changes to the annual throughput or storage capacity at the site and therefore the risk of noise and vibration is not expected to increase as a result of this variation. Nevertheless, the risk of noise has been addressed as part of the Environmental Risk Assessment.
Pests	Low	No – Proposed waste codes not putrescible in nature and therefore have a low potential to attract pests. In addition, there are no proposed changes to how SUEZ will manage wastes that are already permitted to be accepted at the site and have the potential to attract pests (including general and green waste). As such, the risk of pests from the proposal is expected to be low. Nevertheless, the risk of pests has been addressed as part of the Environmental Risk Assessment.
Dust	Low	No – The proposal involves the addition of waste codes that are typically accepted at HWRC facilities including engine oil, waste packaging, tyres, gas bottles, batteries, non-hazardous construction and demolition (C&D) waste, household chemicals and WEEE. Although some of the proposed waste codes may present a risk of dust (including C&D waste), it is key to note that the site is already permitted to accept waste codes that pose a potential risk to dust. In addition, there are no proposed changes to the operational characteristics of the site including the storage capacity or annual throughput. As such, the risk of dust is not expected to increase as a result of the proposed changes. Nevertheless, the risk of dust has been addressed as part of the Environmental Risk Assessment.
Mud/Litter	Low	No - not requested by the EA during pre-application discussions. Nevertheless, the risk of mud and litter has been addressed as part of the Environmental Risk Assessment.
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.