

Environmental Permit Application

The Environment Agency uses Environmental Permits to regulate some aspects of the environmental impact of activities at sites in England. This helps to prevent or reduce pollution to the environment. An Environmental Permit sets restrictions on emissions to air, water and land from a permitted site. It also places conditions on other things such as how an operator manages waste.

We have received an application to vary a permit from Bedfordia Farms Limited who are permitted to operate a broiler chicken farm at Land Off Bedford Road, Rushden, Northamptonshire, NN10 0SQ.

The application is to reduce the currently permitted number of broilers kept on the installation at any one time from 540,000 places in 10 houses, to 320,000 places in 6 houses. Additionally, the currently permitted 4 biomass boilers with an aggregated thermal rated input of 4.59 MWth, will be replaced with 2 biomass boilers with an aggregated thermal rated input of 1.894 MWth.

The consultation period starts on Thursday 10th January 2019 and will last for 20 working days. The environmental permit relates to the control of emissions from the facility on the environment and on people's health. It does not relate to issues such as the choice of location of the site, traffic movements, visual impact, operating hours and light pollution. These are matters that are considered through the planning application process by East Northamptonshire Council.

The proposal requires an Environmental Permit under the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2016. When assessing the permit variation application we will consider the following key areas:

- Management – including general management, accident management, energy efficiency, efficient use of raw materials and waste recovery.
- Operations – including permitted activities and operating techniques (use of poultry feed, housing design and management, slurry spreading and manure management planning).
- Emissions – to water, air and land including to groundwater and fugitive emissions, transfers off site, odour, noise and vibration, monitoring.

The permit focuses on the assessment of activities and emissions from within the site boundary.

What an Environmental Permit does not consider

The permit will **not** address emissions to land, air or water, including odour and noise generated outside of the installation boundary. The emissions that are not covered include:

- Landspreading of slurry and manure (the permit may set controls for landspreading of slurry and manure but it will not assess the impact of emissions from landspreading);
- Transport of manure from the installation to fields using a tractor and trailer;

- The transport of poultry feed and other raw materials plus poultry carcasses and waste linked to the installation beyond the permitted boundary. Amenities issues such as noise and odour beyond the installation boundary are not assessed as part of the permit determination.
- Transport from the installation through permanent or temporary pipework of slurry or dirty water used for irrigation;
- Provision of office and toilet facilities.

Planning Application

Bedfordia Farms Limited submitted their planning application for a proposed chicken farm at Land off Bedford Road to East Northamptonshire Council in June 2018. It is the responsibility of the Council, as the Local Planning Authority, to decide through the planning application process whether the site at Land Off Bedford Road is appropriate for the proposed use.

The Environment Agency is a statutory consultee for this development proposal. We are currently reviewing the planning application, its accompanying environmental statement and Regulation 22 information. We will provide advice to the planning authority in respect of the proposal's impact on, groundwater, water quality, waste management, and water resources, odour and noise from the installation only.

The Environment Agency's responsibility is to ensure that, if the proposed development is granted planning permission, its design and operation does not result in harm to (human health or) the environment. Deciding whether building a chicken farm is necessary, or where to locate one does not fall with the remit of the Environment Agency.

The planning application can be viewed using East Northamptonshire Council's online planning register. East Northamptonshire Council's Local Planning Team can be contacted by telephone on 01832742225 or via email at planning@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk