



## **Bespoke Permit Application**

Spalding Water Recycling Centre

Anglian Water Services Ltd  
Non Technical Summary (NTS)  
February 2024  
Version 1.1

# Bespoke Permit Application for Waste Operations at Spalding WRC

## Non-technical Summary

### 1.1 Site and Location

This Environmental Permit application has been made by Anglian Water Services (AWS) Limited for Spalding Sewage Treatment Works (Water Recycling Centre; WRC) located at Spalding Water Recycling Centre, West Marsh Road, Spalding, PE11 2BB (NGR: TF 26140 25180), hereby referred to as Spalding WRC.

### 1.2 Background and Current Position

Spalding WRC operates under the Urban Wastewater Treatment Regulations (UWwTR) for the treatment of indigenous sewage sludge – (sewage from the local sewer network). The site's operation is a non-hazardous waste activity which is currently carried out under a registered T21 exemption (WEX361628). The waste activity comprises of physio-chemical treatment of the indigenous sewage, and the import of wastes for storage and treatment. Spalding WRC temporarily stores treated biosolid cake produced at other AWS sites before it can be deployed to land under Sludge Use in Agriculture Regulations (SUiAR). No hazardous waste is imported or treated at Spalding WRC. The site has a standalone Water Discharge Activity Environmental Permit which will remain an independent permitted activity (AW5TS741F).

### 1.3 Details of the Permit Application

AWS are applying for a bespoke waste operation permit for the WRC waste activity, due to the Environment Agency's decision that waste operation sites that store and treat biosolid wastes must be permitted under Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR) and should no longer operate under a T21 waste exemption.

The bespoke permit is to operate a water recycling centre for imported wastes It is these wastes which require an EPR permit. The site receives imports of:

- Sewage Sludge (EWC code 19 08 05) from satellite AWS wastewater treatment works.
- Iron sludge (EWC code 19 09 02) from AWS water treatment works sites,
- Domestic cess (EWC 16 10 02) and septic wastes (EWC 20 03 04),
- Blue loo wastes (from chemical toilets) (EWC 16 10 02),

All the above imported wastes are fed into the treatment process at the head of the works. The volume of sludges are reduced, via the normal water recycling centre (WRC) treatment processes primary settlement tanks, gravity belt thickeners (GBT), dewatering and thickening (physical treatment).

Operating hours for deliveries are For imports by 3rd party domestic waste tankers from 8:00 am to 5:00pm Monday to Friday. For Anglian Water (AW) Water recycling Operational Logistics (WROL) and AW contracted tankers access to the site can be at any time in case of need or emergency.

number and time of tanker deliveries per day varies. As an indication the mean, minimum and maximum numbers per day over the 4 month period August 2023 to November 2023 were: Mean 9, minimum 4, and maximum 23.

The bespoke permit is also to operate the cake pad area of the site for the storage of biosolids wastes digested cake (EWC 19 06 06) before it is deployed to land.

AWS is seeking to set the total quantity of imported waste accepted at the WRC as 100,000 tonnes per annum (tpa), in line with the current T21 waste exemption. The maximum amount of cake stored to Spalding WRC at any one time is 4000 tonnes and will not be stored for more than 12 months.

The water recycling centre treatment process is not included in this bespoke permit as this operates under the Urban Wastewater Treatment Regulations. Dewatering is carried out on site but not solely on any of the imported wastes. Dewatering is carried out on the outputs from the WRC process which includes the indigenous sewage which will include any wastes deposited at the head of works.

No additional infrastructure or site operations will be changed or installed as part of this permit application. There will no increases to the storage capacity on the WRC.

#### 1.4 Environmental Setting and Risks

Spalding WRC serves a population equivalent of 80,000 and receives flow from a catchment area of Spalding and surrounding areas. The water discharges from the site are managed on an existing discharge permit, and this will remain a separate independent permitted activity.

The site sits outside 200m of a European Site, Ramsar Site, or a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The closest designated is Vernatts Local Nature Reserve, just over 1.5km to the south west. The closest SSSI is Surfleet Lows, approximately 3.5km to the north of the site.

The site is not within an Air Quality Management Area; the closest AQMA is in Wisbech approximately 25km south east.

There are no point source emissions to land from the waste operation. There are no point or fugitive emissions to surface water or groundwater during normal operation. There are no point source emissions to air from the waste operation. Therefore, there are no control measures proposed for these point source or fugitive emissions.

Refer to the Environmental Risk Assessment and Environmental Management Plan for more detailed risks and mitigation measures in place at Spalding WRC.

#### 1.5 Key Technical Guidance / Standards

Description of the operation	Relevant Technical guidance	Document reference
Spalding WRC	Environmental management - guidance Developing a management system: environmental permits	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/develop-a-management-system-environmental-permits">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/develop-a-management-system-environmental-permits</a>

Description of the operation	Relevant Technical guidance	Document reference
	Environmental management - guidance Control and monitor emissions for your environmental permit	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/control-and-monitor-emissions-for-your-environmental-permit">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/control-and-monitor-emissions-for-your-environmental-permit</a>
	Environmental management – guidance Risk Assessment for your environmental permit	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/risk-assessments-for-your-environmental-permit">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/risk-assessments-for-your-environmental-permit</a>
	Biological waste treatment: appropriate measures for permitted facilities - Biowaste Appropriate Measure Guidance	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/biological-waste-treatment-appropriate-measures-for-permitted-facilities">Biological waste treatment: appropriate measures for permitted facilities - Guidance - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>