

# Bespoke Permit Application for Waste Operations at Boston WRC

## Non-technical Summary

### 1.1 Site and Location

This Environmental Permit application has been made by Anglian Water Services (AWS) Limited for Boston Sewage Treatment Works (Water Recycling Centre; WRC) located at Boston Water Recycling Centre, Scalp Road, Boston, Lincolnshire, PE21 0SH (NGR: TF 35512 41098), hereby referred to as Boston WRC.

### 1.2 Background and Current Position

Boston 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 (WEX361596). The waste activity comprises of physio-chemical treatment of indigenous sewage, and the import and storage of wastes. Boston WRC temporarily stores treated cake produced at other AWS sites before it can be deployed to land under Sludge Use in Agriculture Regulations (SUiAR) and raw cake before this is exported to AW STCs (Sludge Treatment Centres) for treatment. No hazardous waste is imported or treated at Boston WRC. The site has a standalone Water Discharge Activity Environmental Permit which will remain an independent permitted activity.

The pre-application reference from the Environment Agency is EA/EPR/KB3603UB/A001. This pre application letter clarified sewage sludge (19 08 05) can be imported at the head of works with a T21 exemption if 19 08 05 is tankered in independently (ie not mixed loads), therefore it is excluded from permitting requirements by Regulation 3(2)(a) of Controlled Waste Regulations 2012. However given the forth coming legislation changes which would preclude holding a T21 exemption on or next to a waste permitted site this activity is now being included in the permit application.

### 1.3 Details of 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. Imported to the sludge import tank.
- Iron sludge (EWC code 19 09 02) from AWS water treatment works sites. Imported to the head of 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).

The bespoke permit is also to operate the cake pad areas of the site for the storage of biosolids wastes digested cake (19 06 06) before they are deployed to land and raw cake (19 02 06) before this is exported to AW STCs (Sludge Treatment Centres) for treatment in an anaerobic digestion process which will generate biogas for electricity generation. The application is also to cover lime treatment of raw cake when this is required.

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 a T21 waste exemption. The maximum amount of cake stored to Boston WRC at any one time is 4000 tonnes and will not be stored for more than 12 months. No additional infrastructure will be changed or installed as part of this permit application. There will no increases to the storage capacity on the WRC.

The water recycling centre treatment process is not included in this bespoke permit as this operates under the Urban Wastewater Treatment Regulations.

#### 1.4 Environmental Setting and Risks

Boston WRC serves a population equivalent of 50,000 and receives flow from a catchment area of Boston and surrounding area. Treated effluent discharges to the Haven. The discharges are managed on an existing discharge permit, and this will remain a separate independent permitted activity.

This application does not require a habitats assessment as the site is outside 1000 metres of a European Site, Ramsar Site, or a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), as confirmed by the pre-application advise letter and the EA habitat screening document included as a stand alone document.

Boston is within 200 metres of other designated sites namely protected species habitats and local nature reserves therefore a bespoke application is required, and this is based on Standard Rules Permit SR 2010 No 17.

The site is not within an Air Quality Management Area, the closest AQMA is in Boston (3.6km away at closest point).

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 the risks and mitigation measures in place at Boston WRC.

## 1.5 Key Technical Standards

Description of the operation	Relevant Technical guidance	Document reference
<b>Boston WRC</b>	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>
	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>