

# Drakelands Restoration Ltd - Hemerdon Mineral Processing Plant Permit Application

Permit Number: **EPR/AP3203ML/A001**

25 March 2024

**This briefing note updates you about our determination of the environmental permit associated with the mineral processing plant at Hemerdon Tungsten Mine. We also explain the next phase of public consultation and how you can have your say.**

## Summary

- Drakelands Restoration Limited (DRL) (formerly Tungsten West Ltd) have applied for a permit to operate a Mineral Processing Plant at Hemerdon Mine, northwest of Plymouth.
- We held a first public consultation between 1 October 2021 and 29 October 2021 and a second public consultation between 12 December 2022 and 31 January 2023 to ask for your comments.
- We have received over 50 responses to these consultations in total.
- We have carefully considered all of the documents provided to us by DRL, as well as your consultation comments, and cannot find any evidence that would cause us to refuse the permit application.
- We think we may grant the permit to Drakelands Restoration Ltd; this is called a 'minded to' decision.
- We have written a draft permit document and a draft decision document. We would like you to read them and send us your comments in our third consultation, **deadline 7 May 2024, 11.59pm**.
- We will make our final decision once we have reviewed these comments.

## Introduction

We have reviewed all the comments you sent us, along with the documents submitted by DRL, and have considered all the evidence very carefully. As part of this consideration, we have explored several issues of concern, including Infrasound (Low Frequency Noise) that had been a previous issue at the Hemerdon site with operations under the previous operator Wolf Minerals Ltd.

We are now satisfied we have all the information we think we need and cannot find any reason to refuse this permit application. We are therefore now 'minded to' grant this permit to DRL.

This means we think we may grant the permit based on what we know so far, but we have yet to make a final decision. Before we do, we would like you to read our draft decision document and let us know if there is any further information you would like us to consider.



## The draft documents

We have written two documents, the Draft Decision Document and the Draft Permit. The draft decision document explains our thought process and how we have taken on board the comments you sent us in the first two consultations. The draft permit outlines the conditions the operator would have to meet.

In these documents we frequently say 'we have decided'. This gives the impression that our mind is already made up, but as we have explained above, we have not yet done so. The language enables them to become the final documents with no more re-drafting than is necessary.

## How have we reached our decision so far?

The application has been technically assessed by experienced specialist officers in our Environment Agency (EA) National Permitting Service as well as noise and other experts in our Environment and Business and Devon, Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Industry Regulation team. We have gathered comments from all relevant parts of the EA, our statutory consultees and other interested parties.

We have checked that the operator will use appropriate preventative measures to monitor and control issues such as dust, noise or particulate emissions, so that no significant pollution is caused. In doing this we have reviewed how the site will be operated, and whether it will have any impact on people living nearby and natural habitats. We have also consulted with a wide number of partner organisations and the responses we received are included within the draft decision document.

We are bound by the requirements of the [Regulator's Code](#) to grant permits to companies, provided we cannot find any evidence that the building or operation of such a site may cause significant harm to the environment or to human health.

## How can you comment on the consultation?

Our third consultation is now open and we invite you to comment on the draft decision document, draft permit and any other documents we have made available to you over the last few years. You can do so by:

Visiting our online Citizen Space web page: <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/psc/pl7-5bw-drakelands-restoration-limited2/> or scan this QR code.



Emailing us at: [pscpublicresponse@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:pscpublicresponse@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Posting your response to us at: **Environment Agency Permitting and Support Centre, Land Team, Quadrant 2, 99 Parkway Avenue, Sheffield, S9 4WF.**

We welcome feedback from everyone who has a view on the application, regardless of their age, sex, disability, marriage and civil partnership status, pregnancy or maternity status, race, religion or belief or their sexual orientation.

If you need any of the documents in another format, or have issues with accessing the Citizen Space page, please either phone us on **03708 506 506** or email us at [DCISEnquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:DCISEnquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk).

**We must receive your comments by 11:59pm on 7 May 2024.**

Please note that our permitting process does not take into account factors such as off-site vehicle movements, operating hours, visual impact and whether this is an appropriate location for the activity.



## What happens next?

We will consider all relevant comments we receive during this third consultation. Your comments may affect our decision so we will make our final decision once the consultation has closed and we will use your comments to inform us. You can let us know if you would like your comments to be made public when you submit your response on our Citizen Space consultation portal, or in the text of your email or letter.

Your comments will need to provide us with new information that would cause us to reconsider our decision. The information we are already aware of is outlined and considered in the draft decision document. If no new information comes to light, we will issue the permit to DRL after the close of the consultation.

## How can I get further information?

Keep an eye on our local social media channel:

<https://twitter.com/EnvAgencySW>

For more general information about our permitting process please see [www.gov.uk/topic/environmental-management/environmental-permits](http://www.gov.uk/topic/environmental-management/environmental-permits)

If you would like to be added to or removed from our mailing list for this application, please email us at [DCISEnquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:DCISEnquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk) or write to us at **Customer and Engagement Team, Manley House, Kestrel Way, Sowton Industrial Estate, Exeter, EX2 7LQ.**

