

Mrs Anita Manns  
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Mountbatten House  
Grosvenor Square  
Southampton  
SO15 2JU

**Our ref:** EPR/EP3305MZ/A001

**Date:** 07/06/2024

Dear Anita,

**We need more information about your application and underpayment of application charge**

**Application reference:** EPR/EP3305MZ/A001

**Operator:** Southern Water Services Limited

**Facility:** Sandown STC, East Yar Road, Isle of White

Thank you for your updated application received on 20/12/2023.

Unfortunately the application payment you sent is incorrect. The correct application charge is £17,250 (plus the fee for the waste activity identified). This leaves a balance of £1,241 to pay (plus the fee for the waste activity identified if required).

**Application fee**

- £13,984 application fee for - S5.4 1) (b) (i) Recovery or a mix of recovery and disposal of non-hazardous waste with a capacity exceeding 75 tonnes per day (or 100 tonnes per day if the only waste treatment activity is anaerobic digestion) involving biological treatment.
- Application free for the Waste activity identified – *(Note: To be confirmed when relevant information is submitted, if the information is not provided we will not be able to progress this activity as part of this permit application and you will need to submit a further variation at a later date.)*

**Additional Assessments (see below for further details)**

- Odour management plan – a fixed charge of £1,246
- Habitats assessment – a fixed charge of £779
- Emission Management Plan – a fixed charge of £1,241

I need to ask you for some missing information before I can do any more work on your application. Please provide us with more information to the below questions.

**1) Form C2.5**

*We cannot locate form C2.5 and you have applied to add medium combustion plant to your*

Permitting and Support Centre, Quadrant 2, 99 Parkway Avenue, Sheffield, S9 4WF  
Customer Contact Centre: 03708 506 506  
Email: [enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk)  
[www.gov.uk/environment-agency](http://www.gov.uk/environment-agency)

site. Guidance on how to complete this form can be found here.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/application-for-an-environmental-permit-part-c25-vary-to-add-a-new-mcpsg-or-change-an-existing-mcp-or-sq-permit>)

**Provide a completed C2.5 form.**

**2) Site Condition report (SCR)**

*On review of your site condition report this includes activities in the wider WwTW which do not form part of your permit boundary, and does not include Appendix B. Landmark Envirocheck Report. You have identified that 'T21, S1 and D5 exemptions are used on site'. It should be noted that you cannot operate exemptions on an installation and these will need to be surrendered if the permit is issued.*

- a) Update your SCR to reflect the permit area and application you are applying for, removing activities that will not be included within your permit.**
- b) Provide 'Appendix B. Landmark Envirocheck Report', and all supporting information identified in section 'supporting information'.**
- c) Confirm that you will not operate exemptions on site once the permit is issued.**

**3) Emission Points to air**

*On review of your emission points in Table 6.2, your flare National Grid Reference (NGR) is not correct.*

**Provide the NGR for the flare**

**4) Emission to water**

*On review of your emission points in Table 6.3, your NGRs are not correct.*

**Provide the correct NGRs for all point source emission to sewer.**

**5) Site layout plan**

*On review of your site payout plan, your emission points do not reflect the tables provided in your main document. Guidance on what we would include as emissions can be located here <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/control-and-monitor-emissions-for-your-environmental-permit> and <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/develop-a-management-system-environmental-permits>*

- a) Provide a full list of all emission points for all indirect emissions to water and point source emissions to air.**
- b) Provide a site layout plan that includes all emission points**

**6) Missing documents**

*On review of your application we cannot locate the following documents. (Note your application will not be duly made until these have been checked)*

- 790101-MMD-IED-SAN-CA-C-001 – IED Risk Register-Sandown, and
- 790101\_MSD\_DrainagePlan\_SAN

**Provide a copy of the above documents**

## **7) Acceptance of waste to the head of the works**

*You have advised within section 6.1.1 of your application that “With regards to 16 10 02, the waste for this code will be cess waste and chemical toilet waste only. However, some other imports to head of works are on an emergency basis, for example, if a pumping station goes down or there is a burst rising main, the waste would be transferred via tanker to the Site and only from assets that would already discharge to the Site (indigenous).” The receipt of chemical toilet waste would require a permit to be undertaken. You have not applied for this within your application, paid the charges, or provided any information. As such should you require this activity to be undertaken you will need to submit a separate permit variation application.*

**Remove the reference to chemical toilet waste from your application and all relevant documents. (i.e. Non Technical Summary, Odour Management plan ect.)**

## **8) Odour Control Units and the use of dispersion stacks**

*You have advised in your application that “Separate ventilation systems are attached to the inlet works building, sludge building and sludge recirculation kiosk where air is extracted and treated with carbon filters. Treated air is released to the atmosphere via stacks to assist dispersion.” On review of your emission point plan this is not included as an emission point, and you have not confirmed if the carbon filters meet BAT. BAT 34 and 53 require that in order to reduce emissions, BAT is to use one or a combination of defined abatement techniques.*

- a) Confirm the point source emission point for the above release.**
- b) Explain how this emission point meets the requirements of BAT 34 and 53.**
- c) If the emission point does not meet the requirements of BAT 34 and BAT 53 explain what measures you will take to meet BAT by confirming the OCU type that will be implemented to meet BAT.**

## **9) Secondary containment**

*BAT conclusion 19 requires that tanks for liquids must be located in a suitable secondary containment, and that impermeable surfacing must be provided. Under guidance [Control and monitor emissions for your environmental permit - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk), you must prevent leaks or accidental release of liquids that could cause pollution from tanks, sumps, containers bunds. While you have provided videos, we are unclear what these represent, and we cannot locate an explanation of the secondary containment solutions you are proposing to implement.*

- a) Provide an update secondary containment report that clearly identifies the containment solution proposed, the containment volumes, an explanation of how your proposals meet BAT and CIRIA C736 or equivalent.**
- b) Update your permit boundary (and all relevant documents) to include your proposed containment solution**

*Please note that a failure to address key risks within your application will result in this application being returned.*

## **10) Activity Capacity**

*Table 6.1 of your main supporting document advises that you are applying for an annual*

capacity of 189,944(t) per annum. This volume seems low based on an Anaerobic Digestion capacity of 3,855m<sup>3</sup> and we require further confirmation that this volume is correct. Provide the following information:

- a) **Total tonnage of indigenous and imported wet tones to be received at the site.**
- b) **Digester hydraulic retention time**

#### **11) Waste codes accepted**

You have provided table 'A.1 Waste imported for anaerobic digestion'. This table includes EWC code 16 10 02 in which you have listed waste types that you intend to accept under this code. (some would not meet the WM3 requirements for 16 10 02). To accept a varied list under 16 10 02 would cause the digester outputs to fall outside of the sludge use in agriculture regulations meaning that your site would be undertaking co-digestion. As such we require further information on the classification of this waste.

- a) **Provide the source of 16 10 02 that you intend to accept for anaerobic digestion.**
- b) **Explain why accepting 16 10 02 would not be co-digestion.**
- c) **If you are applying for co-digestion, update and re-submit your application to reflect co-digestion.**
- d) **If you do not require 16 10 02 for acceptance to the anaerobic digestion process confirm that this code is to be removed.**

Table A.2 – please note that we do not permit controlled waste regulation codes, as such these will not be included on any permit issued.

- e) **Confirm your acceptance of the above**

We have identified that you have applied for waste to be accepted in table 'A.3 Wastes to import under a waste activity permit'. It is our understanding that waste identified in this table will not undergo anaerobic digestion and as such this activity is not a DAA to the Section 5.4 activity, but a separate waste activity. In order to progress this activity you will need to provide all information identified within our application process, this includes but is not limited to the below. (Please note it is your responsibility to ensure that information is provided in line with our requirements, failure to provide this will mean that we will not be able to progress this element of your application and you will need to apply for a variation at a later date.)

- f) **Payment (note this will be dependent on the volume and activities being carried out, guidance can be located at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-permitting-charges-guidance/environmental-permitting-charges-guidance>)**
- g) **Non-technical summary, and process flow including how you will keep this activity separate from your installations activity (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/waste-environmental-permits>)**
- h) **Assessment against Non-hazardous and inert waste: appropriate measures for permitted facilities <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/non-hazardous-and-inert-waste-appropriate-measures-for-permitted-facilities>**
- i) **Completion of relevant forms – B4 new bespoke waste operation - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/application-for-an-environmental-permit-part-b4-new-bespoke-waste-operation>**

- j) **Updating and inclusion of this activity in all relevant management plans such as the Odour management plan, accident management plan, residue management plan etc.**

## **12) Waste water emissions during storm overflow conditions at the WwTW.**

*Routine emissions to the WwTW from the installation will be controlled via monitored emission limits as an indirect discharge (as defined in the Waste Treatment BREF). However, as WwTW periodically discharge sewage during storm conditions, it's possible that waste water from the installation could bypass the WwTW treatment processes and be emitted as a direct discharge to water. Its not clear from the application how this abnormal situation will be prevented. Operators of environmental permits cannot emit waste waters directly to surface waters without detailed risk assessment. You must therefore have procedures to prevent the discharge of waste water from the installation from bypassing the WwTW treatment processes directly to surface water during storm overflow conditions.*

- a) **Provide written procedures which describes the site's contingency arrangements to prevent digestate and effluent being discharged off site while the WwTW are in storm conditions.**
- b) **Provide a description of the buffer storage proposals to control or hold emissions to the event of storm overflow conditions at the WwTW.**
- c) **Should any contingency arrangements use storage tanks to act as a buffer, provide evidence that demonstrates the waste waters or digestates can be held in this storage during the period of storm overflows.**

*Note, this information can be included as an addendum to your accident management plans as part of BAT conclusion 21, Emissions from accidents and incidents.*

## **13) Waste acceptance and pre-acceptance**

*You have advised in 'Southern water – Duty of care' that "There are no specific pre acceptance procedures for sludge imports, they are acceptable for importing to any of Southern Water's 16 permitted Sludge Treatment Centres (STCs)". This does not meet the requirements of BAT 2.*

**Provide a waste pre-acceptance and acceptance procedure for imported and indigenous sludge. Guidance on what this should include can be located at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/biological-waste-treatment-appropriate-measures-for-permitted-facilities>.**

## **14) Standby generator**

*You have identified five generators as part of your application but not confirmed if these are directly associated activity (DAA) to the Installation activity being carried out.*

*Guidance 'Understanding the meaning of regulated facility' (RGN2) ([https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/964487/LIT\\_6529.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/964487/LIT_6529.pdf)) sets out the requirements for activities to be classified as "directly associated". To be a DAA three criteria must be met. This includes:*

- (2A) the activity must be directly associated with the stationary technical unit;*
- (2B) the activity must have a technical connection with the listed activities carried out in or by the stationary technical unit; and*

(2C) the activity must be capable of having an effect on emissions.’

Requirement 2A, further states that “the activity will only be directly associated with the stationary technical unit if that unit is the principal user of the activity.”

The ‘principle user’ is further explained in RGN2 and is subject to two tests.

- a) Is the activity in question providing different services to 2 or more separate main activities? If it is, (e.g. an intermediate storage acts as the store for the final product of one activity, but for another activity it serves as the raw material feed storage, providing a service with a completely different materials flow), the users cannot be compared, and both can be "principal" users, albeit for different services provided by the associated activity. In these cases, the activity in question will be a DAA of both main activities, whether or not both of the main activities are regulated under the same regime.
- b) For each type of service provided, which is the "principal user? The "principal user" term does not imply that among the users of the service in question the listed activity must use >50% of the activity in question. The principal user would be either (i) the most dependent user or, where this is not clear, (ii) the largest single user in terms of taking output, providing input, etc

As such we require:

- a) **For the five specified generators explain using the RGN2 DAA test why the generators meets the criteria of a DAA.**
- b) **If it does not meet the requirements of a DAA remove this from your permit application and amend your site plans to reflect this.**

Note: Should the generator not meet the criteria for a DAA you will need to apply for a separate permit and pay the relevant application fee.

Table 6.2 does not include the full NGRs for the standby generators, and provides conflicting information on the fuel type.

- c) **Confirm the NGR for each of the five generators**
- d) **Confirm the fuel type for each of the five generators**

### **15) Air Dispersion modelling**

Your air dispersion modelling report has only included 2 of the 5 backup diesel generators that you have identified.

**Update your air dispersion modelling report to include all 5 generators if they are DAA’s, and ensure that emissions for these are assessed in line with guidance [‘Air emissions risk assessment for your environmental permit.’](#)**

### **16) Indirect emission to water**

You have identified indirect emissions to water from:

- Condensate from the gas pipelines and gas storage bag
- Boiler blow down to minimize damage from high mineral content water
- Drain down of plant

- *Uncontaminated roof water from buildings.*
- *Run off from impervious surfaces*
- *Sanitary water (note this would not be permitted as part of the installation)*
- *Washwater*

*This however does not seem to include all emissions such as liquors returning to the head of works. To confirm the WwTW does not form part of your permit boundary, effluent discharged to the head of the works/WwTW is a point source emission to sewer. BAT conclusion 3 requires operators to have an emissions inventory for the effluent. You must identify all emissions and clearly identify where these can be sampled and where they will leave the site boundary.*

- a) Update your emission point plan to ensure all that all indirect emissions to water are included, and clearly explain which emission point includes which waste water stream.**
- b) Provide a written statement with a commitment to undertake the sampling and analysis in line with BAT3.**

Please send the information, quoting the above application reference, to:

[Sarah.raymond@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Sarah.raymond@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Please send the information and payment within 10 working days of this letter. Details of how to pay are given in Part F of the application form.

If we do not receive the information and payment within 10 working days we will return your application.

If we do receive the requested information and payment within 10 working days, we'll continue to check your application. We'll check to see if there's enough information for the application to be 'duly made'. Duly made means that we have all the information we need to begin determination. Determination is where we assess your application and decide if we can allow what you've asked for.

We'll let you know by letter whether your application can be duly made. If it can't be duly made, we'll return your application to you.

If we do have to return your application we'll send you a partial refund of your application payment. We'll retain 20% of the application charge to cover our costs in reviewing your application and requesting information. This maximum amount we'll retain is capped at £1,500. Further information on charging can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-permitting-charging-scheme-2019>

If you have any questions please phone me on 07557 139052 or email [sarah.raymond@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.raymond@environment-agency.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely

**Sarah Raymond**  
**Senior Permitting Officer - Installations**