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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Environmental and sustainability solutions provided to PLATER CHEMICALS GROUP LTD

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Document Title	Non-Technical Summary
Client	Plater Chemicals Group Ltd
Revision	v1.0
Date	05/03/2026
Document Reference	EPR-A01 –Non-Technical Summary
Project Reference	PR1359_J05
Author: Joel Pimm	Reviewer: Martin Ropka

REVISION LOG

Revision	Details	Date
0.1	Initial draft	18/07/2024
0.2	Internal review	13/08/2024
0.3	Draft update	27/10/2025
0.4	Update to draft following client review	16/12/2025
0.5	Update to draft following second client review	26/02/2026
1.0	First issue	05/03/2026

CONTENTS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Address

Plater Chemicals Group Ltd
High Street West
Glossop
Derbyshire
SK13 8ES

1.2 Operational Location

Site Grid Reference: Easting 402439, Northing 394290

1.3 Site Description

The site is located in Glossop, North Derbyshire and supplies the R&D, manufacturing, spray drying, packaging and blending operations of the Plater Group. The site is situated just north of the A57 and less than 500m southeast from Dinting train station. Glossop Brook runs along the southern perimeter of the site. The site is located approximately 1km west of Glossop town centre. Directly to the east of the facility is a Tesco Extra (approximately 100m away). The site is situated in an industrial area with residential areas nearby to the southeast and north. Access to the depot is via Dinting Lane off the A57. There is also a visitor entrance turning directly off the A57 through a gap in the terrace houses and over a small bridge over Glossop Brook. There are numerous residential properties situated near the site, both on the A57 and Dinting Road, with the closest receptor being residential properties located approximately 20m to the south on the A57.

The site currently consists of; site offices, a weighbridge, laboratory, loading area, and warehousing.

1.4 Plans

The Site Location Plan and Site Layout Plan for the Plater Chemicals Group Ltd (hereon referred to as “Plater Chemicals”) site are presented in the following documents:

PCG_Site_Location_Plan_v1
PCG_Site_Layout_Plan_v1

1.5 Permits and Licenses

Plater Chemicals currently hold an Environmental Permit (EPR/AP3737GA), issued under Regulation 10 of the Pollution Prevention and Control (PPC) Regulations 2000. Regulated activities include:

- Schedule 1, Part 1, Section 4.2A(1)(a) (iv) – Producing inorganic chemicals such as salts.
- Schedule 1, Part 1, Section 5.3A(1)(c) (i) – Disposal of non-hazardous waste in a facility with a capacity of more than 50 tonnes per day by biological treatment.

1.6 Planning

The Plater Chemicals site is well established and has the necessary planning permission to operate the site.

1.7 Reason for Application

Plater Chemicals is seeking a make a substantial variation to the current permit to include changes to specific activities that have changed since the most recent Environmental Permit (EPR/AP3737GA) was issued in April 2009. These changes include the number and location of reaction vessels and the associated emission points, and the cessation of chromium based chemical production. This includes the manufacture of alkali metal fluoride in a building immediately south of Shed 14 warehouse, in an area which used to house spray dryers 1 and 2. A cooling tower is also being installed to provide cooling water to the processes on site. There is also an existing gas fired boiler on site that falls under the Medium Combustion Plant Directive (MCPD) that needs to be included in the environmental permit as an associated activity.

The Environment Agency are aware of the changes and have requested that Plater Group vary the existing permit to bring it in line with current activities.

2.0 OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED OPERATION

2.1 Current Operations

Plater Chemicals currently operate the site, under Environmental Permit (Reference EPR/AP3737GA) with the latest version of the permit issued by the Environment Agency on 22/04/09. The permit authorises the production of metal salts, including chromium salts, rare earth metal salts, and general-purpose metal salts. These salts are produced as solutions or powders and are used in various applications such as metal catalysts, dyestuff intermediates, metal treatment chemicals, buffer solutions, antifreezes, and tannery chemicals.

The permit allows an overall production capacity of 8,600 tonnes per year, distributed as follows:

- 2,100 tonnes per year for the main chrome salt production processes (VTL1 + 2)
- 2,200 tonnes per year for the main rare earth salt production processes (VTL3 + SPV101)
- 1,300 tonnes per year for the proposed basic metal salt production processes (VO3 + VO4)

Combustion products from gas-fired boiler are released into the atmosphere. The process also produces acid fume emissions, which are mitigated using wet scrubbers.

The emission points to air that are noted in the original permit are listed below:

- **A1:** Basic Metal Salts Production Vessel VO4 (Vessel VO4)
- **A3:** Basic Metal Salts Production Vessel VO3 (Vessel VO3)
- **A4:** Chrome Salts Production Vessels VTL1, VTL2, Rare Earth Salts Production Vessel VTL3 (West of VTL1, VTL2, VTL3)
- **A5:** Chrome Salts Production Vessels VTL1, VTL2, Rare Earth Salts Production Vessel VTL3 (North of VTL1, VTL2, VTL3)
- **A7:** HCL Storage (HCL Storage Vessel)
- **A8:** Nitric Acid Storage (Nitric Acid Storage Vessel)
- **A9:** Acetic Acid Storage (Western Acetic Acid Storage Vessel)
- **A10:** Rare Earth Salts Production Vessel SPV101 (West of Shed 12 Mixing Department)

It should be noted that emission points A4 and A5 are from two separate scrubbers. A4 is a wet scrubber that serves VTL1, VTL2 and VTL3. Only one process stream operates through this scrubber at any one time. The same applies to the wet scrubber associated with emission point A5.

Plater Chemicals also operate an effluent treatment plant on site to treat non-hazardous liquid waste produced on site.

2.2 Proposed Operation

As 16 years has elapsed since the issuing of the current Environmental Permit, there has been substantial changes in operations which need to be reflected in the permit. Changes include the relocation of the reaction vessels and therefore emission points, the installation of a cooling tower, the production of alkali metal fluoride and the cessation of chromium based chemical production. There is also an existing 5.3MWth gas fired boiler on site that falls under the MCPD that needs to be included in the permit variation.

The full list of the current emission points that are to be presented in the environmental permit following this variation is as follows:

- Dilute Sulphuric Acid Scrubber serving the Ammonia storage tank
- Dilute Sodium Hydroxide Scrubber serving the Hydrochloric Acid storage tank
- Acetic Acid Tank 1 with carbon filter
- Acetic Acid Tank 2 with carbon filter
- Acetic Acid Tank 3 with carbon filter
- Acetic Acid Tank 4 with carbon filter
- Acetic Acid Tank 5 with carbon filter
- Acetic Acid Tank 6 with carbon filter
- Acetic Acid Tank 7 with carbon filter
- 5.3MWth gas-fired boiler
- Bag filter serving the Calciner plant
- Alkali metal fluoride production with emission to atmosphere point
- Cooling tower serving site processes

2.3 Operational Layout

The operational layout of the facility is shown in the Site Layout Plan. In this plan, key areas are clearly defined such as the storage area, production area, high purity area, and office/utility. The Site Layout Plan also shows the different storage, mixing and utility vessels on site, along with the emission points from the site. The whole site is covered by a layer of impermeable concrete. There is a site drainage system in place that collects surface water from the site and directs it into the effluent treatment plant before it is discharged off site.

2.4 Material to be Processed

Only material that is stated and written into the permit will be accepted onto site. Any material that are not categorised as permitted materials should be considered contrary/non-conforming and dealt with appropriately.

2.5 Calculated Capacity

The overall production capacity is 8,600 tonnes per year for metal salt production processes on site such as mono sodium phosphate solution and potassium acetate solution.

2.6 Directly Associated Activities

The associated activities with the site are:

- Disposal of non-hazardous liquid waste in a facility with a capacity of more than 50 tonnes per day by biological treatment in an on-site effluent treatment plant.
- Production of steam for use across site in a 5.3MWth gas-fired steam boiler.

2.7 Operational Hours

Site operational hours for the Plater Chemicals will be typically as identified below:

Monday to Friday	06:00 Monday – 17:00 Friday
Saturday and Sunday	Closed
23/12 – 02/01	Closed
Other Bank Holidays	Open as per Monday – Friday times

2.8 Technical Standards and Control Measures

Plater Chemicals will be operating to industry best standards. A documented list of technical standards that the site is operating to is provided in *Annex A*.

3.0 OPERATING PROCEDURES

3.1 Material Reception

The chemical manufacturing process begins with the careful specification and delivery of raw materials. Initially, the required raw materials are defined in terms of type and quality to ensure the correct substances are utilised in production. These materials, which may be in liquid or powder form, are delivered to the manufacturing site, accompanied by certificates of analysis that confirm their quality and specifications.

3.2 Material Processing and Testing

Once delivered, the raw materials are transferred from their storage containers, such as tanks or Intermediate Bulk Containers (IBCs), to the processing area. Here, the materials undergo a decanting process before being mixed according to specific formulations to create either intermediate or final products.

Throughout the production process, the mixed product is subjected to rigorous testing and inspection to ensure it meets predefined quality standards. Continuous monitoring during this phase helps maintain consistent product quality. If any product fails to meet the required specifications, it is reprocessed to correct any deficiencies. Products that cannot be reworked are classified as waste or out of specification and are disposed of according to environmental regulations.

Following initial processing and quality checks, the product is stored in appropriate containers, such as tanks, IBCs, or bottles, until further processing or distribution is required. When necessary, the product is decanted from these storage containers into smaller containers, such as drums or bottles, for final processing or shipping.

The alkali metal hydroxide solution is taken from its bulk or packaged container added to a stainless steel chemical reactor with agitation, heating and cooling capabilities. To this agitated solution is added a mineral or carboxylic acid solution or crystal to neutralise the alkali and form a salt solution. These reactions normally have a significant exotherm associated with them which is dissipated by the use of vessel cooling water coils. The resultant solutions are then tested and packed off into either bulk or other packaging for storage and sale. Some of these may require filtration prior to release.

Before the final product is released for distribution, it undergoes additional testing to ensure it meets all quality and specification standards. A final certificate of analysis (CoA) is generated to document the product's compliance with these standards. This CoA accompanies the product, providing assurance of its quality to customers. The finished product is then prepared for shipment and transported to customers, ensuring it reaches them in optimal condition.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL AND IMPACT CONTROL MEASURES

It is recognised that all facilities have an impact on the environment around them. An Environmental Risk Assessment has been undertaken to include all operations on site. Plater Chemicals will be employing process management and monitoring techniques which mitigate the environmental impact within the following areas:

4.1 Odour

See Fugitive Emissions Management Plan for more details.

4.2 Noise

See Fugitive Emissions Management Plan for more details.

4.3 Dust

See Fugitive Emissions Management Plan for more details.

4.4 Flora and Fauna

The nearest Natura 2000 site is the Dark Peak / south Pennine Moors Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Area (SPA) located approximately 2.8km east of the site.

4.5 Groundwater

The site is not located within a groundwater Source Protection Zone (I, II, III). The site sits on a *Marsden Formation Bedrock* Aquifer and *Alluvium* Superficial Aquifer. All activities are undertaken on concrete surface with a sealed drainage system. The effluent treatment plant discharges treated water into the foul sewer.

4.6 Surface Water

Arrangements for the management of surface water at the site are detailed within the Climate Change Risk Assessment and Accident Management Plan.

4.7 Sensitive Receptors

There are sensitive receptors within 250m of the site boundary, namely the neighbouring businesses and residential properties surrounding the site. The Site shall ensure that site contact and Environment Agency contact details are clearly signposted near the site entrance and any complaints are recorded and resolved promptly.

ANNEX A – TECHNICAL STANDARDS SUMMARY

WRM Ltd are acting consultants for Plater Chemicals who have commissioned WRM to produce a list of Technical Standards that the site will be working to during the operational lifetime of the facility.

The table below presents a list of technical documents which have been utilised in order to put this permit variation application together and will continue to be used as a point of reference during the operational life of the permitted site. Documents have been sourced from both regulatory bodies and industry led organisations.

Chemical Plant – Technical Standards	
Technical Guidance Note	Document Reference
Develop a management system: environmental permits	DEFRA and EA Guidance
Controlling and monitor emissions from your environmental permit	DEFRA and EA Guidance
General guide to pollution prevention	EA Pollution Prevention Guidance
Managing fire water and major spillages	EA Pollution Prevention Guidance
H1 EA overview of Environmental Risk Assessments for Permits	EA Pollution Prevention Guidance
Best Available Techniques for Production of Speciality Inorganic Chemicals	European Commission Reference Document