

Application for an environmental permit Part C2.5 – Variation to a bespoke permit to add or vary a MCP/SG permitted activity at an installation or to vary an existing MCP/SG standalone permit



Environment
Agency

Fill in this part of the form, together with parts A and F1 if you are applying to vary (change) an already issued permit.

Please check that this is the latest version of the form available from our website.

You only need to give us details in this application for the parts of the permit that will be affected (for example, if you are adding a new facility or making changes to existing ones).

You do not need to resend any information from your original permit application if it is not affected by your proposed changes.

Please read through this form. The form can be:

- 1) saved onto a computer and then filled in.
- 2) printed off and filled in by hand. Please write clearly in the answer spaces.

It will take less than one hour to fill in this part of the application form.

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1 About the permit you wish to vary

1a Discussions before your application

If you have engaged in discussions with us before making this application, please give us the pre application reference number and attach any relevant documentation.

Pre-application reference number

1b What is the reference number of the permit you wish to vary?

EPR/BP3945QX

1c Site details

What is the name, address and postcode of the site?

Site name

LON12 within Virtus Slough Campus Data Centres

Address

Virtus LONDON 12
485 Berkshire Avenue
Slough

Postcode

SL1 4PL

1 About the permit you wish to vary, continued

1d Listed activities

Fill in Table 1 with details of what you are applying to vary.

Table 1 – with example

Listed activities						
Installation/ regulated facility or site name	Schedule-1 (or other) or Schedule 25A/25B references (see note 1)	Description of the activity (see note 2)	Activity capacity (see note 3)	Description of existing activity	Description of proposed change	Document reference of proposed changes
Mike’s Crisps	6.8A(1)(d)(ii)	Producing fruit & vegetables	350 tonnes/day	Food and Drink manufacturing unit	Addition of new Medium Combustion Plant	Ref: MCP 1
	section 1, 1 A(1)(a)	burning of any fuel in	180.5 MWth			70114956/LON12/
						Supporting Informa
Directly associated activities (see note 4)						
Name of DAA		Description of the DAA (identifying the schedule-1 activity or activities it serves)				
Storage of raw materials		From receipt of raw materials to use within the facility				
Surface Water Drainage		Input to site drainage system until the discharge to Thames Water surface water sewer emission points or soakaway				
For installations that take waste		Total storage capacity (see note 5)				
		Annual throughput (tonnes each year)				

1 About the permit you wish to vary, continued

Notes

- 1 Quote the section number, part A(1) or A(2) or B, then paragraph and sub-paragraph number as shown in part 2 of schedule 1 to the regulations. For other regulated facilities quote the EPR Schedule that applies, i.e. Schedule 9 for a waste operation. If amending an existing MCP/SG standalone permit, then use Schedule 25A or Schedule 25B as appropriate.
- 2 Use the description from the schedules of the regulations. Include any extra detail that you think would help to accurately describe what you want to do.
- 3 By 'capacity', we mean the total incineration capacity (tonnes every hour) for waste incinerators, the total landfill capacity (cubic metres) for landfills, the total treatment capacity (tonnes every day) for waste treatment and the total storage capacity (tonnes) for waste-storage operations, the processing and production capacity for manufacturing operations or the thermal input capacity for combustion activities.
- 4 Fill this in as a separate line and give an accurate description of any other activities associated with your schedule-1 activities. You cannot have DAAs as part of a mobile plant application or waste/mining waste operation.
- 5 By 'total storage capacity', we mean the maximum amount of waste (in tonnes) you store on the site at any one time.

1e Type of variation

Tick the box to tell us which type of variation you are applying for:

- ☐ Minor technical
- ☒ Normal variation
- ☐ Substantial

Definitions of these terms are available via: [**Environmental permits: when and how you are charged**](#)

1f Changes to existing activities

Provide a brief summary of the changes you are proposing to make in the space below

Addition of a Data Centre with associated emergency generation consisting of 16 MTU D3100 generator sets. The engines will be NEA Singapore ORDE compliant which is equivalent to US EPA Tier 2. Surface water drainage around the delivery (fill points) and fuel tanks will run to a dedicated oil and silt separator with full retention capacity, automatic shut off, and alarmed, prior to discharge to attenuation tank and then to Thames Water surface water sewer.

2 Emissions to air

2a Is your permit variation application for the addition of a new or existing MCP onto your existing IED Installation (ie A1, A2 or Part B)?

- ☐ No go to question 2b
- ☒ Yes You need to review the Best Available Techniques assessment for your installation including the additional MCP/SG and any associated fuel storage facilities. This should include a review of the impact of other emissions such as noise.

Provide the document reference number

70114956/LON12/Supporting Information

You also need to fill in Table 2 with details of the emissions that will result from the changes you are proposing to make to your existing activities.

Table 2 – Emissions

Installation or Regulated Facility name	Virtus Slough Campus Data Centres			
Point-source emissions to air resulting from proposed change				
Emission-point reference and location (NGR/Latitude & Longitude)	Source	Parameter	Concentration	Units
See 70114956/LON12/Supporting Inform	ation	NOx	2000	mg/Nm3
Table 4- 2				

2b Is your permit variation application to add a new MCP(s) and there will now be a total aggregated thermal input of 20MW thermal or more?

- ☒ No emergency generators not subject to energy efficiency requirements
- ☐ Yes You must either submit a report which shows how your MCP also meets the requirements of Schedule 24 of the Environmental Permitting Regulations which implement the relevant requirements of the Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU) (see **Energy efficiency standards for industrial plants to get environmental permits – GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)**) or provide an explanation of why Schedule 24 does not apply in your case

2c Permit variation application for an MCP and/or SG which is not at a current IED installation:

Is your permit application for a MCP and/or SG which is

2c1 A unit greater than or equal to 20MW thermal?

- ☒ No
- ☐ Yes

2c2 A unit that burns waste biomass as described in Article 3(18)(b) of the Medium Combustion Plant Directive?

- ☒ No
- ☐ Yes

2 Emissions to air, continued

If the answer to either 2c1 or 2c2 is yes you should confirm whether the plant falls under the description of an Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR) Part B activity as set out below:

2c3 Do any of the MCPs and/or SG on site meet the criteria of a EPR Schedule 1, Part 2, Chapter 1, section 1.1 Part B activity?

☒ No

☐ Yes

2c4 Do any of the MCPs on site meet the criteria of a EPR Schedule 1, Part 2, Chapter 5, section 5.1 Part B activity?

☒ No

☐ Yes

If you have answered yes to either of these questions, then you must complete a Best Available Techniques assessment in line with the relevant Environmental Permitting technical guidance note PG1_1 or PG 1_5 (they are available here: <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/psc/mcp-and-sg-regulations/>).

Provide the document reference number for the assessment

Air emissions risk assessment

2d If your application is to add an MCP only which is standalone, does it require an air emissions risk assessment to assess the risk to habitats?

☒ No the MCP(s) are operating outside of the minimum screening distances to habitats given in the stage 1 table in the guidance.

☐ Yes follow the guidance and submit appropriate supporting assessments and reports according to the risk to air.

See this page for guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/medium-combustion-plant-apply-for-an-environmental-permit>.

2e Do you want to declare that your existing MCP(s) will meet new MCP emission limit values (ELVs) from the medium combustion plant directive (MCPD) in order to demonstrate a low risk impact to habitats under a stage 1 or 2 air emissions risk assessment? If you do make this voluntary declaration we will include new MCP ELVs in your permit.

☒ No

☐ Yes

2f If your application is to add an SG (which may also be an MCP) which is standalone are you required to carry out dispersion modelling to assess the risk to human health and habitats from proposed emissions to air?

☒ No submit evidence that habitats and human health assessments screen out.

☐ Yes submit a copy of your completed detailed air quality modelling report and modelling input files. Part of IED permit <50 hrs per year ops, AQ assessment prepared

If you have used the Environment Agency's 'Specified Generator Screening Tool' to help make your decision supply a copy of that completed tool with your application.

2 Emissions to air, continued

Where you wish to use a different methodology to assess the environmental impact, that methodology must address the same issues to an equivalent level of detail. The purpose of the environmental risk assessment is to demonstrate that the impacts of your proposals will be acceptable. See this page for guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/specified-generators-dispersion-modelling-assessment>

2g If your application is to add MCP to your existing IED installation you must submit a revised air emissions risk assessment to demonstrate that modelling is not required, or a modelling report and modelling input files to demonstrate that the impacts of your proposals will be acceptable.

See further guidance: [Air emissions risk assessment for your environmental permit – GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/air-emissions-risk-assessment-for-your-environmental-permit)

Provide the document reference number for any evidence relating to air emissions risk assessments from questions 2d to 2g

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2h Does your application refer to an existing Mining Waste activity?

☒ No

☐ Yes

2h1 If yes, does your application propose a change in how you currently use or dispose of your waste gas?

☐ No

☐ Yes You must submit an amended Waste Management Plan (WMP) which covers the changes in your permitted activity to reflect the operation of your new MCP/SG. (See Appendix 6 in the guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mining-waste-operations-epr-614-additional-guidance>)

Document reference of the amended WMP

2i Information for MCP/SG

You must complete this section for all applications.

Complete **[combustion plant list spreadsheet](#)** for the MCP/generators making up the SG which are the purpose of this permit variation application.

Provide the document reference number for the combustion plant list spreadsheet

Virtus Slough EPR BP3945QZ A001 2024

3 MCP/SG Emissions Monitoring

3a Where you are applying to vary an IED installation describe the measures you use for monitoring emissions by referring to each emission point in Table 2 above

You should also describe any environmental monitoring. Tell us:

- how often you use these measures
- the methods you use
- the procedures you follow to assess the measures

Document reference

70114956/LON12/Supporting Information

3b Point source emissions to air at IED installations only

3b1 Has the sampling location been designed to meet BS EN 15259 clause 6.2 and 6.3?

- ☐ No
- ☒ Yes Ports are installed for MCP requirements for NOx only

3b2 Are the sample ports large enough for monitoring equipment and positioned in accordance with section 6 and appendix A of BS EN 15259?

- ☐ No
- ☒ Yes

3b3 Is access adjacent to the ports large enough to provide sufficient working area, support and clearance for a sample team to work safely with their equipment throughout the duration of the test?

- ☐ No
- ☒ Yes

3b4 Are the sample location(s) at least 5 HD from the stack exit

- ☐ No
- ☒ Yes

3b5 Are the sample location(s) at least 2 HD upstream from any bend or obstruction?

- ☐ No
- ☒ Yes

3b6 Are the sample location(s) at least 5 HD downstream from any bend or obstruction?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

3b7 Does the sample plane have a constant cross sectional area?

- ☐ No
- ☒ Yes

3b8 If horizontal, is the duct square or rectangular (unless it is less than or equal to 0.35 m in diameter)

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

3 MCP/SG Emissions Monitoring, continued

3b9 If you have answered 'No' to any of the questions 4b1 to 4b8 above, provide an assessment to how the standards in BS EN 15259 will be met.

Document reference of the assessment

4 Supporting information

4a Provide a non-technical summary of your application to vary your existing permit

Write a non-technical summary that explains your application in non-technical language as much as possible avoiding technical terms, detailed data and scientific discussion. It should include a summary of the regulated facility, a summary of the key technical standards and control measures arising from your risk assessment and how the subject of your application fits with the existing permitted activity(s). If your application is for mobile plant describe the mobility of your plant and how you intend to operate.

Document reference of the summary

70114956/LON12/NTS and NTS addendum

4b If your application is to vary an IED installation or waste operation is the boundary of your existing site being extended to accommodate the addition of a MCP/SG*?

- ☐ No Submit a copy of the existing site plan showing the location of the new plant
- ☒ Yes Submit an amended site plan to show the new boundary and where the new plant will be located. If your existing permit relates to an EPR Installation or Waste Operation, also submit an updated site condition report to include the land enclosed by the boundary extension. (See section 5 of the guidance note 'C2' available via <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/application-for-an-environmental-permit-part-c2-varying-a-bespoke-permit>)

Document reference or references of the plans and Site Condition Report

70114956/LON12/Supporting Information Appendix C

* Does not apply to stand-alone MCP/SG permits

4c Existing MCP 1-5MWth or Tranche A SG requiring compliance by 1st January 2030.

If you are applying to vary your permit to add new plant or existing plant 5-50MWth or amend details of the plant already permitted, you can also ask us to include existing MCP1-5 MWth /SG Tranche A aggregating to less than 5MWth at the same time as part of this application. Relevant plant would be given a post-dated compliance deadline in the permit. Any decision to opt into including existing plant earlier than the regulatory requirement as part of this application is to be made by the operator. You should complete relevant parts of this application to ensure we have details of the existing plant to be permitted under the variation.

Would you like to permit existing MCP/SG at this site as part of this variation?

- ☒ No
- ☐ Yes

If yes, note this must not be the sole purpose of your variation application and you must provide all relevant details of the existing plant as part of your application.

5 How to contact us

If you need help filling in this form, please contact the person who sent it to you or contact us as shown below.

General enquiries: 03708 506 506 (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm)

Textphone: 03702 422549 (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm)

Email: [**enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk**](mailto:enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Website: [**www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency**](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency)

If you are happy with our service, please tell us. It helps us to identify good practice and encourages our staff. If you're not happy with our service, please tell us how we can improve it.

Please tell us if you need information in a different language or format (for example, in large print) so we can keep in touch with you more easily.