

**About this consultation**

Hinkley Point C, TA5 1UD, NNB Generation Company (HPC) Limited: environmental permit consultation

# The aim of this consultation is to ask whether you have any comments relevant to the permit application.

We want to make the best decision when permitting. Listening to the views of others helps us to take account of concerns, or local environmental factors, that we may not be otherwise aware of.

We’ve received an application for a variation involving substantial change to a permit from NNB Generation Company (HPC) Limited.We are seeking comments on this application.

The details of the application are as follows:

* **Variation application number:** EPR/JP3122GM/V011
* **Regulated facility type:** Water management zones and effluent treatment units serving the Hinkley Point C (HPC) construction site
* **Regulated facility address:** Hinkley Point C (HPC) construction site, Hinkley Point C power station, Wick Moor Drove, Near Bridgwater, Somerset, TA5 1UD
* **Receiving environment and discharge point:** The existing discharge permitted via WDA environmental permit is made to the Severn Estuary via the same existing discharge point permitted at Outlet 12 at national grid reference (NGR) ST 19315 46475

# What does the operator want to do?

# Existing permitted discharge of 2,592 cubic metres per day (m³/day) of trade effluent consisting of tunnelling effluent and muck bay drainage (permitted as water discharge activity (WDA) reference H in the current permit)

# The proposed variation (change) to WDA reference H is to increase the concentrations of the following naturally occurring parameters present in the tunnelling effluent and muck bay drainage:

# Increase the currently permitted concentration of dissolved inorganic nitrogen (DIN) from 8,146 micrograms per litre (µg/l) to 15,000µg/l

# Increase the currently permitted concentration of total chromium from 48µg/l to 144µg/l

# Increase the currently permitted concentration of total cadmium from 1µg/l to 3µg/l

# There are no other proposed changes to this existing WDA (activity reference H) as part of this permit variation application.

# What are we consulting on?

The Company has submitted a number of reports alongside the applications to vary its existing permits. We need to consider all of these fully and independently before we can make any decision on whether the Company’s proposals are acceptable or not. The reports submitted by the Company include:

* A summary report, which provides the details of the application and the supporting information, including a non-technical summary.
* A report detailing the modelling assessment of the effluents that the Company want to discharge via the temporary jetty (TR428).
* A report detailing the environmental risk assessment.
* A report providing evidence to inform a Habitats Regulations Assessment (TR550). This considers whether the effluents that the Company want to discharge via the temporary jetty have the potential to affect the habitats and species designated as part of the Severn Estuary Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site, and also those forming part of the Bridgwater Bay Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Why are we consulting?

We are running a public consultation because Hinkley Point C is a major infrastructure project, important at the local, national and international scales. We understand that changes at the site are likely to be of public interest. We make decisions based on evidence and involve stakeholders, consultees and the public in order to improve the transparency of our decision-making.

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.

How can I get further information?

Please address any questions about the permit application to [psc-waterquality@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:psc-waterquality@environment-agency.gov.uk) For 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)

For further information about our role in regulating Hinkley Point please see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hinkley-point>

What will the response be used for?

We will take your consultation responses into consideration as part of our determination of the permit. If we decide to grant the permit we will explain how we made our decision and how we have addressed the concerns that you raised.

We will only issue the permit if we believe that harm to the environment, people and wildlife will be minimised and that the operator has the ability to meet the conditions of the permit. Providing a business can prove that the proposed activities meets all the legal requirements, including environmental, technological and health requirements, then we are legally obliged to issue a permit, even if some people do not approve of the decision.

How to Respond:

**Online:** If you would like to comment online, please do so using this Citizen Space online consultation portal.

**Email:** Please send to [psc-waterquality@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:psc-waterquality@environment-agency.gov.uk)

**By post:** Please send it to:

Environment Agency Permitting and Support Centre Water Quality Team

Quadrant 2

99 Parkway Avenue Sheffield

S9 4WF

Please contact our Permitting and Support Centre on 03708 506 506 if you need printed versions of the documents.

All comments need to be submitted by 14 January 2024.

**How we will use your information:**

We will look to make comments received publicly available at our local Environment Agency office.

We do not include personal email addresses and telephone numbers in comments which are made publicly available. If you have requested confidentiality your comments will not appear on our public register.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we may be required to publish your response to this consultation, but will not include any personal information. If you have requested your response to be kept confidential, we may still be required to provide a summary of it.

Consultation Principles:

We are running this consultation in accordance with the criteria set out in the government’s [Consultation Principles.](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultation-principles-guidance) If you have any queries or complaints about the way this consultation has been carried out, please contact:

Environment Agency

Permitting and Support Centre

Water Quality Team

Quadrant 2

99 Parkway Avenue Sheffield

S9 4WF

Email: [psc-waterquality@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:psc-waterquality@environment-agency.gov.uk)