

About this consultation

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 to vary a permit from NNB Generation Company (HPC) Limited. We are seeking comments on this application. Please use the reference number below when making comments.

- Permit Number: EPR/HP3228XT/V004
- Regulated facility type: Water Discharge Activity
- Regulated facility location: Hinkley Point C Power Station, Hinkley Point, Near Bridgwater, Somerset, TA5 1UD
- Receiving environment: Bristol Channel
- Effluent type: Trade effluent (comprising cooling water and process effluent) and treated sewage effluent
- Volume: Maximum average rate of discharge 132 cubic metres per second

The company now wants to vary this existing permit to amend or remove conditions relating to the design and operation of the Acoustic Fish Deterrent (AFD) system. This was initially proposed as part of the station's marine intake system ie pipes used to abstract cooling water from the Severn Estuary.

The original permit was granted by the Environment Agency in 2013 and covered the discharge of trade effluent, consisting of cooling water, back into the Severn Estuary. The initial design required the company to abstract and discharge this cooling water using three measures, which would work together to reduce the environmental impact of this activity. The measures included in the original permit were a Low Velocity Side Entry intake (LVSE), a Fish Recovery & Return (FRR) system and an Acoustic Fish Deterrent (AFD) system.

This briefing note will tell you more about the changes that the company wants to make to their permit, how you can find out more and how you can send your comments to us.

What does the operator want to do?

The Company no longer wants to install an Acoustic Fish Deterrent (AFD) system on its marine intake pipes and so it is applying to us to vary its current permit to remove the conditions related to this measure.

What does this mean for the site?

The company has submitted a number of reports alongside its application. 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:

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
0345 988 1188

- A justification report, which justifies the proposed design for the abstraction and associated fish protection measures.
- A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) report, which considers whether the proposed revised arrangements for seawater abstraction will adversely affect the integrity of European designated sites or Ramsar sites, either alone or in combination with other relevant permissions, plans or projects.
- A Water Framework Directive (WFD) Compliance Assessment, which considers whether the proposed revised arrangements will adversely affect compliance with the Water Framework Directive, including any impact on fish numbers and migration in the River Parrett.
- An Eels Regulations Assessment.
- An Impingement Assessment, looking at numbers of fish that may become trapped within the power station's cooling water system and the impacts on the fish community of the Bristol Channel.
- An Engineering Report, which summarises the company's decision making processes for the selection, design and optimisation of components of its cooling water system.
- A Safety Report, which summarises health and safety studies and risk analysis.

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 significant 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.

What are we consulting on?

Because of the strategic nature of the site and the fact that cooling water will be abstracted from marine waters i.e. below the low tide mark, the company already has three separate permissions in place and it will need to vary all of these in order to make the proposed changes. **We are asking for your comments on the requested changes to the environmental permit only.**

The company will also be applying to:

- the Planning Inspectorate (PINs), in order to vary its Development Consent Order (ie planning agreement, DCO 2013: S.I. 2013:248) and
- the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), in order to vary its marine licence (number L201300178/3).

PINs, the MMO and the company will run and promote separate public consultations on the above aspects, which are likely to happen at the same time as our consultation on the environmental permit variation application. You can find out more about the company's pre-application consultation on the Development Consent Order (DCO) at www.edfenergy.com/AFDconsultation

How can you find out more about the application?

The company has submitted a large number of supporting documents and reports. You can view all of these online via this consultation portal.

Alternatively you can view hard copies of all the supporting information related to this permit variation application at any of the following locations:

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- Hinkley Point Visitor Centre (EDF Energy), Units 18-19 Angel Place Shopping Centre, 25 Angel Crescent, Bridgwater, TA6 3TQ.
- Public Register, Environment Agency, Rivers House, East Quay, Bridgwater, TA6 4YS.
- Public Register, Environment Agency, Horizon House, Deanery Road, Bristol, BS1 5AH.
- Customer Services Reception, West Somerset Council, West Somerset House, Killick Way, Williton, TA4 4QA.
- Central Library Hub, Cardiff Central Library, The Hayes, Cardiff, CF10 1FL.

You can look at our register 9.30am-4.30pm, Monday to Friday. Please phone the National Customer Contact Centre on 03708 506 506 to arrange an appointment. You may get a copy of documents on the register. We may charge to cover copying costs.

How can I get further information?

Please address any questions about this permit application to psc-waterquality@environment-agency.gov.uk

For general information about our permitting process please see 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 the response will 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 were raised.

We will only issue a 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:

If you would like to comment online, please use the online consultation tool in Citizen Space.

If you would like to send your response by post, please send to:

Environment Agency
Permitting and Support Centre
Water Quality Team
Quadrant 2
99 Parkway Avenue
Sheffield
S9 4WF

But if you'd prefer to submit your response by email, or if you'd like to ask for a printed version of the document to be posted to you, please contact Permitting and Support centre on 03708 506 506, or email psc-waterquality@environment-agency.gov.uk

All comments need to be submitted by 04 June 2019.

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How we will use your information:

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

All comments which are made publicly available will exclude email addresses and telephone numbers. Any comments where confidentiality has been claimed will not appear on the 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](#).

If you have any queries or complaints about the way this consultation has been carried out, please contact:

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