

**From:** [Elaine Gibson](#)  
**To:** [Asprey, Patrick](#)  
**Cc:** [Assurance](#); [Robin Fanthom](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Request for further information EPR/CP3643QY/A001 Plumley PSD  
**Date:** 31 July 2023 12:58:08  
**Attachments:** [image008.png](#)  
[image009.png](#)  
[image010.png](#)  
[image011.png](#)  
[image012.png](#)  
[image013.png](#)  
[image014.png](#)  
[image015.png](#)  
[image016.png](#)  
[Application Bespoke - SR2015-No2-GRa Plumley - 07102022.xlsx](#)  
[Elaine Gibson shared 220523 R JER9424 AG PLY SCRIED V2R2 - Compiled with vou..msg](#)

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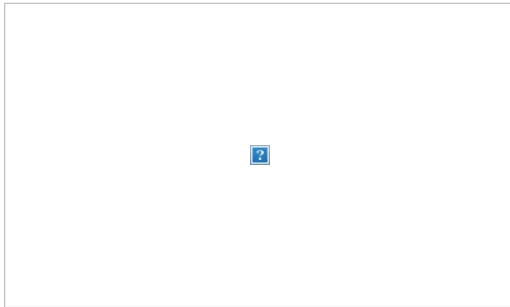
Hi Patrick,

Regarding the environmental risk assessment (ERA), which you deem insufficient, please note the following:

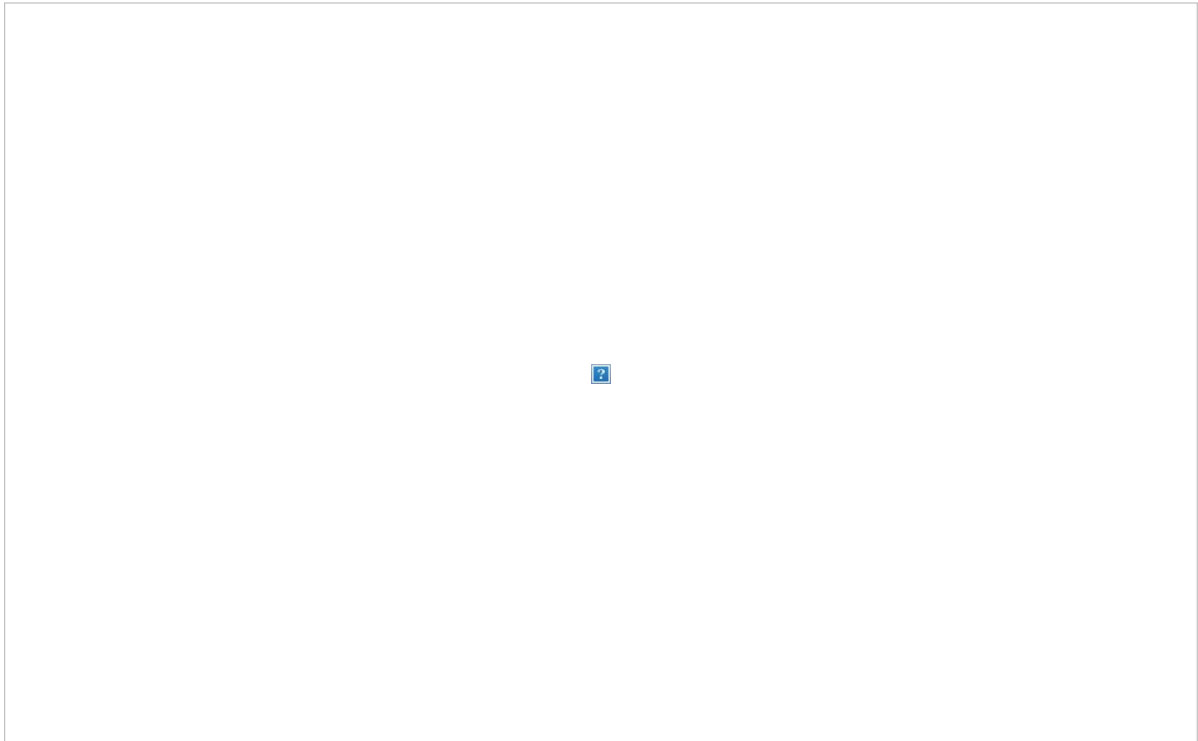
1. The 2015 ERA and 2017 ERA Addendum were done in accordance with the CDOIF guidelines, which is the format required for environmental risk assessments required by COMAH.

It follows the source-pathway-receptor methodology and assesses if the risks are acceptable or not.

I believe this covers points 1-4 below (which we discussed on the call on 20<sup>th</sup> July).



2. In addition to the above, I supplied the standard rules risk assessment (as attached) and this references the Site Condition Report, which was undertaken in 2022 and submitted along with the permit (please see 2<sup>nd</sup> attachment). As you can see from the extract below, this also follows the source-pathway-receptor methodology.



3. I submitted the equivalent documents (CDOIF ERA, standard rules risk assessment and Site Condition Report) for the adjacent Cape of Good Hope permit in March 2022 and these were accepted.

I trust this is acceptable, as I have read the guidelines in [Risk assessments for your environmental permit - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/risk-assessments-for-your-environmental-permit) and believe all points have been addressed.

However, if you feel there are elements that have been missed out please advise.

Regards,

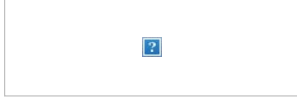
Elaine Gibson

**Process Safety Engineer**

**m: 07710 763399**

d: 07710 763399

e: [Elaine.Gibson@oilandpipelines.com](mailto:Elaine.Gibson@oilandpipelines.com)



Head Office: St George's House, Weevil Lane, Gosport PO12 1AP  
t: 020 7420 1670 w: <http://www.gov.uk/opa>

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**From:** Asprey, Patrick <[Patrick.Asprey@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Patrick.Asprey@environment-agency.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** Friday, July 28, 2023 1:48 PM

**To:** Elaine Gibson <[elaine.gibson@oilandpipelines.com](mailto:elaine.gibson@oilandpipelines.com)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] FW: Request for further information EPR/CP3643QY/A001 Plumley PSD

**This Message originated outside your organization.**

Good afternoon,

In regards to my request for further information email sent 13/07/2023, I was expecting a satisfactory response yesterday. As this hasn't been provided we may have to return this application. As I am aware you are on annual leave please ensure this is provided when you return or contact me to discuss this.

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-permits-and-abstraction-licences-tables-of-charges>

If you have any questions please email [Patrick.Asprey@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Patrick.Asprey@environment-agency.gov.uk) or phone me on 07391 409816.

**Patrick Asprey**

Permitting Officer, National Permitting Service - Installations  
**Environment Agency** | Rivers House, Sturry Road, Canterbury, CT2 0AA

[Patrick.Asprey@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Patrick.Asprey@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Mobile: 07391 409816

**From:** Asprey, Patrick

**Sent:** 21 July 2023 15:29

**To:** Elaine Gibson <[Elaine.Gibson@oilandpipelines.com](mailto:Elaine.Gibson@oilandpipelines.com)>

**Cc:** Assurance <[Assurance@oilandpipelines.com](mailto:Assurance@oilandpipelines.com)>; Robin Fanthom <[Robin.Fanthom@oilandpipelines.com](mailto:Robin.Fanthom@oilandpipelines.com)>; Rhyan Barry <[Rhyan.Barry@oilandpipelines.com](mailto:Rhyan.Barry@oilandpipelines.com)>; Henrietta Ojo <[Henrietta.Ojo@oilandpipelines.com](mailto:Henrietta.Ojo@oilandpipelines.com)>; PSC Land <[PSC@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:PSC@environment-agency.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** RE: Request for further information EPR/CP3643QY/A001 Plumley PSD

Dear Elaine,

For question 4 the documents provided titled '2017 ERA Addendum' and '2019 technical note' were already provided with the original application documents. This document isn't sufficient in terms of an environmental risk assessment.

Please can you consider updating the standard rules generic risk assessment you submitted in the application (as attached) and adapting this to meet the bespoke risk assessment guidance, in order for the risk assessment information to be clearly laid out and up to date.

In terms of the invoice I believe this should be sent by PSC Land [PSC@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:PSC@environment-agency.gov.uk). PSC Land please can you ensure the recent payment is allocated on Resp and an invoice sent out.

Kind regards,

**Patrick Asprey**

Permitting Officer, National Permitting Service - Installations  
**Environment Agency** | Rivers House, Sturry Road, Canterbury, CT2 0AA

[Patrick.Asprey@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Patrick.Asprey@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Mobile: 07391 409816

**From:** Elaine Gibson <[Elaine.Gibson@oilandpipelines.com](mailto:Elaine.Gibson@oilandpipelines.com)>

**Sent:** 21 July 2023 09:16

**To:** Asprey, Patrick <[Patrick.Asprey@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Patrick.Asprey@environment-agency.gov.uk)>

**Cc:** Assurance <[Assurance@oilandpipelines.com](mailto:Assurance@oilandpipelines.com)>; Robin Fanthom <[Robin.Fanthom@oilandpipelines.com](mailto:Robin.Fanthom@oilandpipelines.com)>; Rhyan Barry <[Rhyan.Barry@oilandpipelines.com](mailto:Rhyan.Barry@oilandpipelines.com)>; Henrietta Ojo <[Henrietta.Ojo@oilandpipelines.com](mailto:Henrietta.Ojo@oilandpipelines.com)>

**Subject:** RE: Request for further information EPR/CP3643QY/A001 Plumley PSD

Hi Patrick,

Would it be possible at all to send us an invoice for the additional payments of £779 and £1967.20.

As I am on leave next week, could you please cc everybody else in the reply?

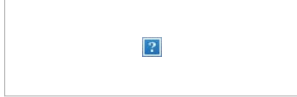
Thank you,

Elaine Gibson

**Process Safety Engineer**

m: 07710 763399

d: 07710 763399  
e: [Elaine.Gibson@oilandpipelines.com](mailto:Elaine.Gibson@oilandpipelines.com)



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t: 020 7420 1670 w: <http://www.gov.uk/opa>

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**From:** Elaine Gibson  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 20, 2023 4:41 PM  
**To:** 'Asprey, Patrick' <[Patrick.Asprey@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Patrick.Asprey@environment-agency.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** Assurance <[Assurance@oilandpipelines.com](mailto:Assurance@oilandpipelines.com)>; Robin Fanthom <[Robin.Fanthom@oilandpipelines.com](mailto:Robin.Fanthom@oilandpipelines.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Request for further information EPR/CP3643QY/A001 Plumley PSD

Hi Patrick,

For no 1, please see attached Section 2 of the COMAH Report (refer to Section 2.5.2 - Main Interceptor Description).  
For no 2, please see attached Section 8 of the COMAH Report (please note some of the roles have changed since it was written in 2020 and this will be updated in the next revision due in 2025).  
For no 4, I will share a zipped folder with you via OneDrive (it is too big to e-mail). It contains the 2015 ERA, 2017 ERA Addendum and 2019 Technical Note. I have checked and it does contain the steps stipulated in "how to do a risk assessment".  
I am arranging payment for no 3 & 6.

Let me know if you need anything else.

Regards,  
Elaine Gibson  
**Process Safety Engineer**  
m: 07710 763399  
d: 07710 763399  
e: [Elaine.Gibson@oilandpipelines.com](mailto:Elaine.Gibson@oilandpipelines.com)



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**From:** Asprey, Patrick <[Patrick.Asprey@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Patrick.Asprey@environment-agency.gov.uk)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 20, 2023 3:57 PM  
**To:** Elaine Gibson <[elaine.gibson@oilandpipelines.com](mailto:elaine.gibson@oilandpipelines.com)>  
**Cc:** Assurance <[Assurance@oilandpipelines.com](mailto:Assurance@oilandpipelines.com)>; Robin Fanthom <[Robin.Fanthom@oilandpipelines.com](mailto:Robin.Fanthom@oilandpipelines.com)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: Request for further information EPR/CP3643QY/A001 Plumley PSD

**This Message originated outside your organization.**

Dear Elaine,

As discussed during our phone call today I note your request for a meeting although we don't deem this to be necessary, with the response you have given me in regards to question 5 this satisfies that question and clarifies the details of your application. Please ensure the remainder of the questions are answered by the deadline for these responses of 27/07/2023.

Kind regards,

**Patrick Asprey**  
Permitting Officer, National Permitting Service - Installations  
**Environment Agency** | Rivers House, Sturry Road, Canterbury, CT2 0AA  
[Patrick.Asprey@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Patrick.Asprey@environment-agency.gov.uk)  
Mobile: 07391 409816

**From:** Elaine Gibson <[elaine.gibson@oilandpipelines.com](mailto:elaine.gibson@oilandpipelines.com)>  
**Sent:** 19 July 2023 15:19  
**To:** Asprey, Patrick <[Patrick.Asprey@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Patrick.Asprey@environment-agency.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** Assurance <[Assurance@oilandpipelines.com](mailto:Assurance@oilandpipelines.com)>; Robin Fanthom <[Robin.Fanthom@oilandpipelines.com](mailto:Robin.Fanthom@oilandpipelines.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Request for further information EPR/CP3643QY/A001 Plumley PSD

Dear Patrick,

Would it be possible to have a call to discuss the application, as there seems to be a misunderstanding about what is being requested i.e this permit is to regularise

the storage of fuel at Plumley that has been there for several decades and not about uplifting the fuel and decommissioning (unlike the adjacent site Cape of Good Hope, where the permit was for both the storage and uplift of fuel).

Yes, long-term we would like to remove the fuel from Plumley, but this is probably a few years down the line.

I would also like to involve another EA Inspector who has been involved and provided advice on this application, if that would be amenable with yourself.

As I am on leave next week, would it be possible to have the call 3<sup>rd</sup> August or w/c 7<sup>th</sup> August?

Trust this is an acceptable way forward,

Let me know,

Thank you,

Elaine Gibson

**Process Safety Engineer**

**m: 07710 763399**

**d: 07710 763399**

**e: [Elaine.Gibson@oilandpipelines.com](mailto:Elaine.Gibson@oilandpipelines.com)**



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**From:** Asprey, Patrick <[Patrick.Asprey@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Patrick.Asprey@environment-agency.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 12:31 PM

**To:** Elaine Gibson <[elaine.gibson@oilandpipelines.com](mailto:elaine.gibson@oilandpipelines.com)>

**Cc:** Assurance <[Assurance@oilandpipelines.com](mailto:Assurance@oilandpipelines.com)>; Robin Fanthom <[Robin.Fanthom@oilandpipelines.com](mailto:Robin.Fanthom@oilandpipelines.com)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: Request for further information EPR/CP3643QY/A001 Plumley PSD

**This Message originated outside your organization.**

Dear Elaine,

I have completed the checks on your permit application and will be Not Duly Making it for the reasons stated below:

1. Confirm monitoring and control measures in place for the interceptor.
2. Provide all documents relevant to your BAT assessment (in your previous response you referred to a 'safety management system described in Section 8 of the COMAH Report' but did not provide this).
3. Provide an additional payment of £779. Your application requires a habitats assessment. The charge for this assessment is not included in your baseline application charge. All new bespoke applications with a relevant habitats site within the screening distance require this assessment.
4. Provide a site specific environmental risk assessment (ERA) in accordance with our guidance: [Risk assessments for your environmental permit - GOV.UK](http://www.gov.uk) ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)). You do not meet the requirements of a standard rules permit and so a generic risk assessment is not suitable for this application.
5. Clarify the activities taking place on site regarding oil removal and decommissioning works which you are proposing to be covered under the permitted activities.
6. Provide an additional payment of £1967.20. The storage of crude oil and stabilised crude petroleum are separate activities. You need to pay 10% of the relevant application charge for the same activity carried out multiple times on the same site (£1967.20).

Please reply directly to this email with your information.

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-permits-and-abstraction-licences-tables-of-charges>

If you have any questions please email [Patrick.Asprey@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Patrick.Asprey@environment-agency.gov.uk) or phone me on 07391 409816.

**Patrick Asprey**

Permitting Officer, National Permitting Service - Installations

**Environment Agency** | Rivers House, Sturry Road, Canterbury, CT2 0AA

[Patrick.Asprey@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Patrick.Asprey@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Mobile: 07391 409816

**From:** Elaine Gibson <[elaine.gibson@oilandpipelines.com](mailto:elaine.gibson@oilandpipelines.com)>

**Sent:** 02 June 2023 10:34

**To:** Asprey, Patrick <[Patrick.Asprey@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Patrick.Asprey@environment-agency.gov.uk)>

**Cc:** Assurance <[Assurance@oilandpipelines.com](mailto:Assurance@oilandpipelines.com)>; Robin Fanthom <[Robin.Fanthom@oilandpipelines.com](mailto:Robin.Fanthom@oilandpipelines.com)>

**Subject:** RE: Request for further information EPR/CP3643QY/A001 Plumley PSD

Dear Patrick,

Please see my replies in blue below.

Elaine Gibson

**Process Safety Engineer**

**m: 07710 763399**

**d: 07710 763399**

**e: [Elaine.Gibson@oilandpipelines.com](mailto:Elaine.Gibson@oilandpipelines.com)**



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**From:** Asprey, Patrick <[Patrick.Asprey@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Patrick.Asprey@environment-agency.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** Friday, May 19, 2023 3:48 PM

**To:** Elaine Gibson <[elaine.gibson@oilandpipelines.com](mailto:elaine.gibson@oilandpipelines.com)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Request for further information EPR/CP3643QY/A001 Plumley PSD

**This Message originated outside your organization.**

Dear Mrs Gibson

**Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016**

**Application reference: EPR/CP3643QY/A001**

**Operator: The Oil & Pipelines Agency**

**Facility: Plumley PSD, Back Lane, Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 9SJ**

Thank you for your application received on 07/10/2022. I tried calling you today 19/05/2023 to discuss the below information.

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 in relation to the following:

1. We did not received a completed B6 form with this application. I am aware that in your "Surface water" document you have advised why this wasn't completed, although the B6 form needs to be completed and returned in order to progress this application. This is explained in the B3 form under question 2 in which it states: "You will also need to complete application form part B6 if your installation includes a point source emission(s) to: water". The B6 form and guidance is found here: [B6 form and guidance](#)

**Interceptor**

As stated in the "Surface water" document, it was previously agreed with the EA in 2014 that this activity does not require a permit as "*we do not permit discharges of uncontaminated surface water, but expect sufficient containment, pollution prevention measures and the surface water passing through suitably sized interceptors at these sites to prevent pollution*".

This was confirmed by the EA (Daniel Gaskarth) on 25/05/22 stating: my understanding is that no discharge consent is required if the interceptor is properly used and maintained such that it only discharges clean, uncontaminated water.

As the B6 form is an application for a permit, this does not apply for the interceptor as it does not need one.



Equally, water discharge activity has not been selected on section 2c in the B2 Form, Table 2 in the B3 Form has not been populated (with the emissions parameter, quantity and unit data) and Section 4 in the B3 Form has not been populated (with the environmental monitoring measures).

**Sewage Treatment Plant**

The following advice was requested as part of the pre-application advice (form submitted on 03/05/22).



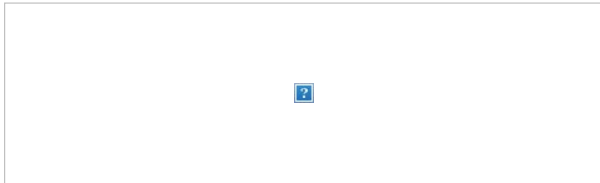
The EA (James Lidgett) replied on 10/05/22 stating: *If you are able to meet the general binding rules for small sewage discharges then you will not need a permit. You would not need to complete any permit application forms.*

**Summary**

Based on the aforementioned advice provided by the EA for the interceptor and the sewage treatment plant, the B6 form is not required.

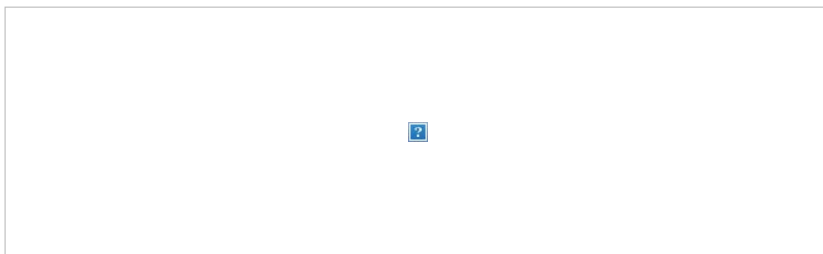
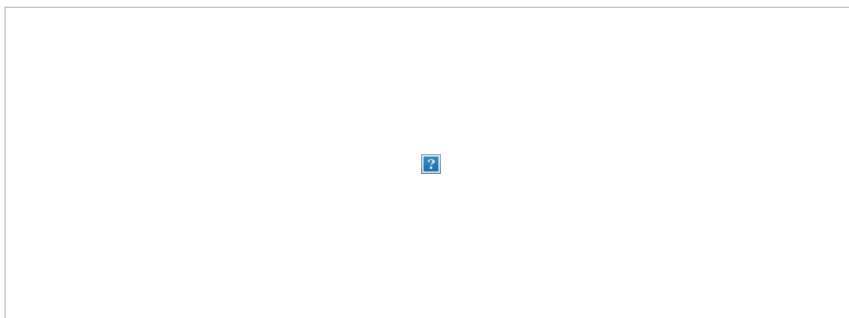
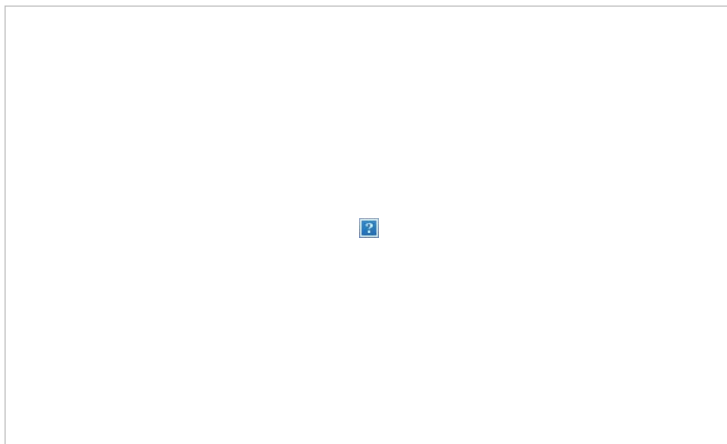
2. On the form B3 attached, the parameter, quantity and unit for table 2 has not been filled out, please ensure these are filled out and returned. Guidance on completing the B3 form is here: [B3 Guidance](#) As above.
3. On the form B3 question 4a asks for you to "Describe the measures you use for monitoring emissions by referring to each emission point in Table 2 above". Please ensure you provide a document that fulfils this, as the 'surface water' document does not do this. You have mentioned there's a monitoring device on the site interceptor- you can refer to this and how this interacts with any monitoring within this document. [As above](#).
4. On the form B3 question 3 it asks for information relating to relevant technical assessment. Please confirm which technical guidance you have used and fill in table 3 for each of the following 3 activities: Storage of Crude oil (the main permitted activity), the site interceptor (which will likely be classified as a DAA (Directly Associated Activity)) and the small sewage treatment plant (which will also likely be a DAA).
  - Relevant technical guidance for the main permitted activity includes but is not limited to: Best Available Techniques (BAT) Reference Document for the Refining of Mineral Oil and Gas [https://eippcb.jrc.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2019-11/REF\\_BREF\\_2015.pdf](https://eippcb.jrc.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2019-11/REF_BREF_2015.pdf) and BREF for emissions from storage [https://eippcb.jrc.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2022-03/efs\\_bref\\_0706\\_0.pdf](https://eippcb.jrc.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2022-03/efs_bref_0706_0.pdf). BAT guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/best-available-techniques-environmental-permits>

I have updated question 3 (please see extract below and attached).



5. Your application requires an assessment under the Habitats Regulations. The charge for this assessment is not included in your baseline application charge. You will therefore need to make an additional payment of £779.

Can you please clarify why this is required? There are no SACs or SPAs adjacent to the site. Whilst there are two RAMSARs, these regulations are "to test if a plan or project proposal could significantly harm the designated features of a European site". This permit is just for the existing site activity of fuel storage (i.e. not for a project to change this). Also please see below the information contained with the COMAH Report, regarding Habitats.



Please reply directly to this email with your information.

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-permits-and-abstraction-licences-tables-of-charges>

If you have any questions please phone me on 07391 409816 or email [Patrick.Asprey@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Patrick.Asprey@environment-agency.gov.uk).

**Patrick Asprey**  
Permitting Officer, National Permitting Service - Installations  
**Environment Agency** | Rivers House, Sturry Road, Canterbury, CT2 0AA

[Patrick.Asprey@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Patrick.Asprey@environment-agency.gov.uk)  
Mobile: 07391 409816

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