

Endless Energy, Aire Valley Road, Keighley

Our role in Environmental Permitting - Application EPR/ZP3537AT

8 December 2020

Our role is to protect and improve the environment so that everyone can enjoy the benefits of a clean, safe and healthy place to live.

We are responsible for granting or refusing environmental permits and regulating sites that deal with waste.

This briefing gives information about our final decision to issue an environmental permit to Endless Energy Limited to operate an energy from waste facility at Aire Valley Road, Keighley.

The Application

In October 2018 Endless Energy Limited applied to the Environment Agency for an environmental permit to operate an energy from waste facility at a site on Aire Valley Road in Keighley. We are legally obliged to assess an application and determine if a permit should or should not be issued.

Our technical assessment of the application began in October 2018. We held our first public consultation between 1 November and 13 December 2018. Over 2000 comments were received during this consultation.

We then consulted on our draft decision between 8 June 2020 and 12 August 2020. During this time we received over 1600 comments.

Final decision

We have now considered all the comments received during both consultation stages of the process. We have incorporated the comments

within the final decision document. This document explains our decision making process and how we have assessed the Endless Energy application and the factors that we have taken into account. The decision document also explains our reasons for proposing the conditions in the permit.

We have determined that the applicant has provided sufficient information for us to determine that the facility will not compromise Air Quality Limits or Standards and will meet all the relevant environmental requirements for this type of facility. We have therefore decided to issue the permit to Endless Energy to allow them to operate the facility as described in their application and additional information that they have provided.

The permit has been issued today 8 December 2020.

How did we take account of your comments?

The decision document explains how we have addressed all your concerns. As many comments were duplicated, we have grouped recurrent comments into common themes.

The decision document is split into various sections, which will help you to see how your comments have been addressed. The list on the next page gives you references to where some of the more frequently raised issues are addressed in the decision document:

What happens next?

The permit that has been issued sets out legally binding conditions that Endless Energy Ltd must follow in order to protect air quality, groundwater and surface water and to ensure the safe storage, management and disposal of wastes. It also imposes conditions to minimise the risk of

accidents, noise and odour and maximise energy efficiency.

We regulate the performance of energy from waste plants in the following ways:

- **Issuing permits which say how the plant must be operated, the monitoring that must be done and the limits it must meet. The permits contain conditions on:**
 1. Competent management of the installation;
 2. energy efficiency, accident prevention, noise control;
 3. limits on emissions to air predominantly and other media where relevant;
 4. training for staff on written operating instructions;
 5. details on how waste and raw materials should be received, handled and stored;
 6. the types and quantity of waste the installation is allowed to take in;
 7. operating conditions such as burn times and temperature; and
 8. monitoring techniques, equipment, standards and sampling.
- **Carrying out regular inspections and audits;**
- **Requiring operators to monitor key emissions using appropriate monitoring standards and to report the results to us;**
- **Regularly reviewing monitoring techniques and assessing monitoring results to measure the performance of the plant and check that it is not exceeding permitted limits;**
- **If we identify that an energy from waste plant breaches any of its permit conditions we will take the appropriate enforcement action. This may be a warning for minor breaches or enforcement notices to rectify the situation and even prosecution for more serious offences;**
- **We put all of the operator's monitoring reports and our records of inspections and audits on the public register.**

Guide to the decision document

Section 4 describes what the facility will do and includes:

- management systems (section 4.3.2);

- how the Operator will prevent and minimise the risk of accidents (section 4.3.4);
- what operating techniques the Operator will have to abide by (section 4.3.6); and
- energy efficiency (4.3.7)

Section 5 is all about the impacts of the facility and you will find information on:

- how we assess the impacts (section 5.1);
- impact on air quality (section 5.2) including local factors such as local weather conditions (section 5.2.4);
- impacts on human health (section 5.3); and
- impacts on local natural environment such as the South Pennine Moor (section 5.4).

Section 6 looks at the 'Best Available Techniques' which the Operator will employ and includes:

- techniques to minimise pollution to air (sections 6.2 to 6.4);
- techniques to minimise odour (section 6.5.4)
- techniques to minimise noise and vibration (section 6.5.5)
- emission limits that the facility will need to achieve (section 6.6)
- monitoring that the Operator will need to carry out (section 6.7)

Annex 4 summarises all the comments that we have received from other agencies, MPs, Councillors and the community.

How to View the Permit:

A copy of the permit with links to all the information we have considered for the permit determination is available to view on our citizen space webpage at:

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/yorkshire/endless-energy-keighley>

(note that this is not a consultation page but purely set up to provide the information in one place)

If you would like further information on the determination of this permit application, please contact our National Customer Contact Centre on 03708 506 506