

4Recycling Ltd - Waste Recycling Plant

Requirement for an Environmental Permit - Minded to decision

August 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. We will not issue a permit if current evidence suggests that the operation will be harmful to health or the environment.

This briefing is a follow up to the one issued on 30th April 2019.

On 19th November 2018 4Recycling Ltd, also known as the 4R Group, applied to the Environment Agency for an Environmental Permit to operate a waste recycling plant at The Old Peat Works, Reading Gate, Swinefleet, DN14 8DT. The application number is EPR/GB3202XN/A001.

We provided two newsletters and opened a public consultation on the application which ran from 22nd March 2019 to 8th May 2019.

The application has been technically assessed by experienced specialist officers and we are considering comments from the public, external bodies and other interested parties during this minded to consultation.

We have finished our technical assessment of the application and are minded to approve the application and issue a bespoke permit. The purpose of this consultation is to advertise our decision along with a copy of the permit and decision document. We are looking for any concerns that haven't already been addressed within the decision document.

We recognise that the processing of waste may be unwelcome in the local community but we must have regard to due process and legislation and we can only consider the proposal on the merits of the supporting operating procedures and environmental risk assessments required by

legislation. In this case, we currently have no cause or grounds to refuse the application.

We are required by legislation to issue a permit unless evidence shows that there is a risk to the environment or human health, regardless of whether a site has planning permission or not.

The evidence available at the time the permit was determined was sufficient for our technical specialists to understand and consider that risk and include the necessary conditions that the operator must follow. We consider that the Operator is able to meet the required standards of the legislation and adhere to the conditions of the permit. We have provided a copy of our decision document on Citizen Space along with a copy of the draft permit

We still want to hear from the public and understand people's views on our decision. Everybody has the chance to see what the permit will look like and to raise any additional concerns before we make any final decision.

Having listened to your views, we are aware that odour and noise are of concern for local residents. We want to reassure you that, the Operator is required to operate the site in compliance with the conditions set out in their environmental permit. These conditions include the requirement for the Operator to prevent or where that is not practicable to minimise pollution off site, including noise and odour.

Making your comments

You are able to make comments on the draft permit and decision documents from 17th August 2020 until 21st September 2020.

We are following Government advice to manage the risks of Coronavirus to our organisation, to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of our staff and sustain our critical operations.

We can only accept comments in two ways:

View the proposed decision and comment online:

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/psc/dn14-8dt-4recycling-ltd-draft-decision>

Email: pscpublicresponse@environment-agency.gov.uk

Normally we would be able to accept comments in writing, however due to the current Covid-19 situation our support centre is currently not monitoring post. As such any written comments will not be received and therefore not considered in our consultation.

For advice about how to make a representation or if you are unable to make a representation via e-mail please call 03708 506 506.

We are required to put any responses we receive on the public register. This includes your name and contact details. Please tell us if you do not want your response to be public.

Details of our initial consultation

During the initial consultation which ran from 22nd March to 18th April 2019 we received in excess of 230 responses. We were only able to consider comments which are covered by the permitting process. During the initial consultation the main concerns which we were able to consider included:

- The risk of odour from the site
- The risk of flooding from the site
- The risk to public health from the site
- The risk to ground and surface water from the site
- The risk to air quality from the site

- The risk to nearby habitats from the site
- The risk of noise from the site

All of the above concerns have been considered as part of our determination and are detailed within the decision document. A summary of each of the points is detailed below. As these points have been raised previously and addressed in our determination and documented in our decision document we are not looking for further comments on the above.

Odour

- All waste treatment will be undertaken within the process building. Liquid and granular wastes will be stored in appropriate tanks or silos.
- The Operator has strict waste acceptance criteria to ensure only permitted wastes are accepted on site.
- Wastes, once treated will either be stored internally or externally depending on their nature and characteristics. Higher odour generating wastes will be stored internally.
- If wastes stored externally are found to be odorous, the storage locations shall be amended.

Flooding

The site lies in a Flood Zone 3, the risk of flooding from fluvial/tidal sources is considered to be 1 in 200 years.

The containment capacity on site will exceed the runoff created during a 1 in 100 year storm with a 60 hour duration, with a 40% uplift to allow for climate change.

Public Health

As part of our 'working together agreements', we consulted with Public Health England. The main points raised in Public Health England response is the potential for fugitive emissions from the site in the form of odour and dust. Public Health England had no significant concerns regarding risk to health of the local population from this proposed activity, providing that the appropriate measures are in place to prevent or control pollution.

The Operator has an approved odour management plan which details the control and prevention of odour emissions on site.

Surface and ground water

All waste will be treated on an impermeable surface with sealed drainage. Only uncontaminated surface water will be discharged to the surface water drains surrounding the site via the onsite clean water lagoon at a maximum rate of 10l/s. All contaminated water will be collected on site and drain to the 'dirty water lagoon', which will be tankered away for treatment off site.

Air Quality

The Operator proposes to install a small generator on site to provide electricity. The generator will have a maximum thermal input power of 390kW, if run at 100% capacity. The size of the generator is below the threshold of our specified generator guidance which is for generators with a thermal input between 1MWth and 50 MWth. We have therefore concluded that the impact upon air quality from the emissions of the generator will not be significant.

Impacts to air quality from the movement of vehicles off site in the delivery and collection of materials to and from site have not been considered within this application. Decisions about land use and impacts of traffic are matters for the land-use planning system.

Wastes which have the potential to release ammonia and bioaerosols will be treated as a priority and within the main processing building. Furthermore there are no sensitive receptors within 250m of the site boundary which is the screening distance for bioaerosols.

We are satisfied that the Operator has taken appropriate measures to ensure that impacts on the local air quality will be minimal.

Habitats

The site is a minimum of 1.2Km from the boundary of the protected habitats:

- Thorne, Crowle and Goole Moors Site of Special Scientific Interest ("SSSI")
- Thorne Moor Special Area of Conservation ("SAC")
- Thorne and Hatfield Moors Special Protection Area ("SPA")

We undertook a Habitats Risk Assessment Stage 1 for the European protected habitats (SAC & SPA) and an Appendix 4 for the SSSI site.

We have not consulted with Natural England on the application as the sites fall outside of our screening distances. Furthermore, Natural England were consulted as part of planning, and in May 2019 following some clarifications they concluded that "the proposed development will not damage or destroy the interest features for which the site has been notified and has no objection".

Our assessment concluded that the application will not affect any sites of nature conservation, landscape and heritage, and/or protected species or habitats identified.

Noise

The Operator has provided a risk assessment for noise originating from the site. The assessment concluded that the risk of noise from the site is expected to be low. We have assessed the information provided and agree that the risk of noise from the site is low.

Based upon the information in the application, we are satisfied that the appropriate measures will be in place to prevent or where that is not practicable to minimise pollution from noise.

What sort of comments are we able to take into account?

We are only able to consider any new comments where it is felt anything during our determination has been overlooked or it is felt an error has been made. These comments can be on any aspects that we are required to assess when deciding whether to grant an environmental permit. The main ones are:

- *The location of local receptors, wildlife, habitats, any planned projects such as new housing or industry if the facility is within our screening distances.*
- *Emissions from the operation of the facility including the quantity and the predicted impacts on human health and the environment, including air, water, land, noise and odour*
- *The proposed techniques including whether any alternative techniques have been considered and whether this is deemed appropriate for the process.*
- *Energy usage efficiency and energy generation efficiency; raw material use*
- *Minimisation of waste generated by the process, and the recovery, recycling or disposal of this waste*
- *The condition of the soil and groundwater below the site*
- *The potential for accidents (in terms of the risk to the environment rather than on workers which is covered by the Health and Safety Executive).*

and best practices are in place to protect the environment and people's health would an operator be issued with a permit. The permit contains conditions which if the operator does not adhere to for whatever reason are able to investigate and take legal action where appropriate.

Due to the current Coronavirus situation are local offices are closed as such hard copies of draft documents are unable to be viewed. If you are unable to make representation via Citizen Space or email please contact our National Contact Centre on 03708 506 506.

What sort of comments are we NOT able to take into account?

- *Any concerns that have previously been mentioned and detailed within the decision document.*

The following issues are considered to be matters for the land-use planning system and cannot be considered as part of our determination as to whether a permit should be issued or not.

- *Any activities relating to the facility outside of the site boundary, such as potential increased traffic and vehicle movements.*
- *The visual impact of the facility (considered by the planning authority).*
- *Whether the activity should be allowed or not as a matter of principle.*

Only when we are satisfied that the operation will not cause harm, and all the correct technologies