

APPENDIX 2b: GLA POST HEARING WRITTEN ORAL SUMMARY SUBMISSION

GLA CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY REGARDING PERMITS (REDACTED)

From: Elphick, David [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 June 2019 09:17
To: Kidd, Roger <[REDACTED]>; Doug Simpson
[REDACTED]
Subject: RE: EA Permit inquiry

Hi there,

Yes, it looks fine to me too,

Regards,
David

From: Kidd, Roger
Sent: 12 June 2019 16:00
To: Doug Simpson [REDACTED]; Elphick, David <[REDACTED]>
[REDACTED]
Subject: RE: EA Permit inquiry

Doug,

One amendment in the final paragraph otherwise I'm okay.

Roger

Roger Kidd
Advisor, Environment and Business (RS & IR, Energy Team)
Environment Agency | Orchard House, Endeavour Park, London Road, West Malling,
Kent, ME19 5SH

[REDACTED]

From: Doug Simpson [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 June 2019 11:46
To: Elphick, David <[REDACTED]>; Kidd, Roger
[REDACTED]
Subject: EA Permit inquiry

Hi David, Roger, firstly thanks David for your time on Monday to clarify the purpose of our engagement with the EA, which is to help us validate our understanding of the EA permit system. As promised I've set out below the content and context for how we would like to present the helpful information provided in our submissions to the Planning Inspector regarding Cory's application for a new Waste incinerator (ERF). Can you please let me know

by return email if you are both happy with this. Please amend anything as you see fit and give me a call if you would like to have a chat

1. Waste Transfer Capacity

The GLA is concerned that there may not be sufficient capacity at WRWA's four waste transfer stations to manage additional waste before onward transport by river to the proposed ERF.

The London Waste Map shows the following tonnages of waste received at Cringle Dock and reported to the Environment Agency 2014-2017. Source:

<https://maps.london.gov.uk/waste/> This shows that Cringle Dock WTS is already operating at full capacity.

Site Name: Cringle Dock Ts

Borough: Wandsworth

License Number:83275

Operator: Cory Environmental Ltd

Site Broad Group: Waste transfer (household and commercial)

Tonnage Licensed:300,000

Year 2014 total tonnage received:263675.03

Year 2015 total tonnage received:288554.53

Year 2016 total tonnage received:307049.24

Year 2017 total tonnage received:308077.16

2. EA Permits

The GLA is concerned that the applicant is placing an over-reliance on the EA Permit to ensure that waste being treated at the proposed ERF will be non-recyclable waste. The GLA has reservations about this and has been provided with the following advice from the Environment Agency to clarify the role and process for obtaining an EA permit:

Waste Acceptance

There are duties to assess proposals against the waste hierarchy in determining permit applications, however this doesn't usually come down to assessing whether the proposed technology is the right solution for dealing with waste in a specific area.

It maybe helpful to see the waste acceptance condition in an Environmental Permit for an Incineration plant.

Waste shall only be accepted if:

- a. *it is of a type and quantity listed in schedule 2 table(s) S2.2 [LIST OF WASTES], and*
- b. *it conforms to the description in the documentation supplied by the producer or holder; and*
- c. *it having been separately collected for recycling, it is subsequently unsuitable for recovery by recycling.*

For municipal waste incinerators the permitting service will generally assess the applicants proposed list of wastes, which will also include commercially available wastes, in relation to whether;

- i. these wastes are categorised as municipal waste in the European Waste Catalogue or are non-hazardous wastes similar in character to municipal waste;

- ii. the wastes are all categorised as non-hazardous in the European Waste Catalogue and are capable of being safely burnt at the installation.
- iii. these wastes are likely to be within the design calorific value (CV) range for the plant;
- iv. these wastes are unlikely to contain harmful components that cannot be safely processed at the Installation.

The extent to which residual municipal waste contain material that could be recycled is not considered a matter for the environmental permit as it should be being addressed through local authority waste plans / contracts.

We should challenge the inclusion of any explicitly obvious waste sources that would commonly be able to be recovered further up the waste hierarchy – e.g. paper and card, however such waste streams could be included as they will fit the design capability of the plant and there maybe domestic recovery capacity issues e.g. we collect more waste paper than there is domestic recovery capacity. Whether it gets recycled or “recovered for energy” will depend on market forces and other drivers. Inclusion on the permit does not necessarily mean that waste material will go to the incinerator if gate fees are higher.

R1

The R1 assessment is completely separate from the environmental permit application (although operators sometimes apply for both at the same time) and the operator does not need to have a permit before making an R1 application. If we grant R1 status based on design data, and if the operator wishes to maintain R1 status, then they will then need to reapply to show that they can still meet R1 once they start operating, and carry out annual reassessments after that to show that they are still meeting it.

We have seen some examples in the past when local authorities and others have assumed that the Environment Agency requires all new EfW plants to have R1 recovery status, which is not correct. Although we are the competent authority in England for determining R1 applications, having R1 status is not a permit requirement (although sometimes operators apply for R1 status at the same time as making a permit application).

Capacity

We do limit capacity in the permit based on annual hours operation and nominal tonnages of low CV waste, and the capacity will be included in our impact assessment. Capacities can change as the nature of residual waste streams change. We are seeing a trend for existing operational plant (including the existing RRR facility) to increase capacity to take heavier low CV wastes to offset changes to residual municipal waste streams as a result from improvements in recycling rates (e.g. separate food waste collection). Changes to the capacity generally require a permit variation.

Kind regards
Doug

Doug Simpson
Principal Policy and Programme Officer
Circular Economy and Major Projects
Development, Enterprise and Environment Department
Greater London Authority

