

Briefing 9: Wealden Works Recycling, Recovery and Renewable Energy Facility, Langhurstwood Road, Horsham, RH12 4QD

Variation application number: **EPR/CB3308TD/V002** **16 May 2022**

Summary

- Britaniacrest Recycling Limited have applied for a permit variation from us to add mechanical sorting and an energy recovery facility to its existing site off Langhurstwood Road, Horsham.
- We closed our first public consultation on this permit variation application on 2 August 2021 and have been assessing the documents since then.
- We have carefully considered all of the documents provided to us by Britaniacrest Recycling Limited, as well as your consultation comments. We cannot find any reason that would cause us to refuse the permit variation application.
- We think we may issue the permit variation to Britaniacrest Recycling Limited; this is called a 'minded to' decision.
- We have written a draft permit variation document and a draft decision document. We would like you to read them. Please send any comments by 26 June 2022 11.59pm.
- We will make our final decision once we have reviewed your comments.
- We received over 130 comments to our first consultation. We have addressed the relevant issues raised in our draft decision document.

Introduction

We let you know on 17 August 2021 that our first public consultation had closed. You can view the documentation and publicly available comments here: [RH12 4QD, Britaniacrest Recycling Limited, EPR/CB3308TD/V002: environmental permit consultation - Environment Agency - Citizen Space \(environment-agency.gov.uk\)](#). We have reviewed all the comments you sent us, along with the documents submitted by Britaniacrest Recycling Limited, and have considered all the evidence very carefully.

As part of this consideration, we have explored issues of concern, such as noise. Concerns like these caused us to ask for more information from Britaniacrest Recycling Limited, in the form of Schedule 5 notices, and when we received this information we made it available to you on our Citizen Space consultation portal.

We are now satisfied we have all the information we think we need and cannot find any reason to refuse this permit variation application. We are therefore 'minded to' issue this permit variation to Britaniacrest Recycling Limited. This means we think we may issue the permit variation based on what we know so far, but we have yet to make a final decision. Before we do, we would like you to read our draft decision document and let us know if there is any further information you would like us to consider.

The draft documents

We have written two documents: the draft decision document and the draft permit variation. The draft decision document explains our thought process and how we have taken on board the comments you sent us in the first consultation. The draft permit variation outlines the conditions the operator would have to meet. In these documents we frequently say 'we have decided'. This gives the impression that our mind is already made up, but as we have explained above, we have not yet done so. The language enables them to become the final documents with no more re-drafting than is necessary.

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
03459 88 11 88

How have we reached our decision so far?

We would only issue a permit variation if we are satisfied that Britaniacrest Recycling Limited has the appropriate systems in place to operate the energy recovery facility without causing harm to the environment or human health. We have checked that the operator will use appropriate preventative measures to monitor and control issues such as dust, noise or particulate emissions, so that no significant pollution is caused. In doing this we have reviewed how the site will be operated, and whether it will have any impact on people living nearby and natural habitats. We have also consulted with a wide number of partner organisations and the responses we received are included within the draft decision document.

We understand that this may not be the news you were hoping for. We are bound by the requirements of the Regulator's Code to grant permits and issue permit variations to operators, provided we cannot find any evidence that the building or operation of such a site may cause significant harm to the environment or to human health.

How can you comment on the consultation?

Our second consultation is now open and we invite you to comment on the draft decision document and draft permit variation. These documents can be found on <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/psc/rh12-4qd-britaniacrest-recycling-limited-draft-dec>

Copies are also available at Horsham Library, Lower Tanbridge Way, Horsham, RH12 1PJ. Call 01403 224353 to make an appointment to view the documents.

Responses can be made via the website or by email to pscpublicresponse@environment-agency.gov.uk

If you are unable to submit your comments in this way, you can post them to: Environment Agency Permitting and Support Centre, Environmental Permitting Team, Quadrant 2, 99 Parkway Avenue, Parkway Business Park, Sheffield S9 4WF marked 'Variation application number: EPR/CB3308TD/V002'.

We must receive your comments by 11:59pm on 26 June 2022

Please note that our permitting process does not take into account factors such as off-site vehicle movements, operating hours, visual impact and whether this is an appropriate location for the activity, as these are the local council's responsibility to regulate.

What happens next?

We will consider all relevant comments we receive during this second consultation. Your comments may affect our decision so we will make our final decision once the consultation has closed and we will use your comments to inform us. You can let us know if you would like your comments to be made public when you submit your responses on our Citizen Space consultation portal, or in the text of your email or letter.

Your comments will need to provide us with new information that would cause us to reconsider our decision. The information we are already aware of is outlined and considered in the draft decision document. If no new information is received, we will issue the permit variation to Britaniacrest Recycling Limited after the close of the consultation.

For general information about our permitting process please see our Citizen Space page <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/psc/rh12-4qd-britaniacrest-recycling-limited/> or www.gov.uk/topic/environmental-management/environmental-permits

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
03459 88 11 88