

enviroparks

Enviroparks have planning consents with both RCT and Brecon Beacons for a 240,000 tonne annual capacity sustainable waste resource recovery and energy production park located adjacent to Ninth Avenue on Hirwaun Industrial Estate. The consent covers a materials recovery and fuel preparation plant, pyrolysis and gasification, anaerobic digestion and a Biomax separator for the production of biofuels.



Illustration showing the whole site as per planning permission

During the planning process we promised to keep local residents informed of our progress, particularly relating to our requirement to apply to Natural Resources Wales (NRW – formerly The Environment Agency Wales) for an environmental permit to operate the site.

The site is to be developed in several phases;

Phase 1 will be the construction of a materials recycling and fuel preparation facility and associated site infrastructure only, and will not involve any electricity generation from pyrolysis, gasification or anaerobic digestion.

Phase 2 will see the development of a gasification plant to produce electricity from the fuels produced on site by Phase 1.

On the 29th January 2014 Natural Resources Wales received a permit application from Enviroparks for Phase 1 only.

The purpose of this information sheet is to explain how a permit application is processed by NRW and how you can raise any concerns with NRW relating to that application.

A second entirely separate permit application will be required for the Phase 2 gasification process. This application will not be made for some time, but when it is we will provide further information for local residents.

So what is Phase 1?

The Phase 1 facility will be used to treat up to 240,000 tonnes of waste each year, in order to extract ferrous metal, wood, inert aggregate, plastics, cardboard and mixed paper for recycling. The residual materials will be prepared for use as a refuse derived fuel (RDF) which will be transferred off-site to an energy from waste facility for thermal recovery. Initially the waste will be commercial and industrial however, residual municipal waste may be introduced at a later date.



Enviroparks have reached an agreement with leading waste management company, Biffa Waste Services, for them to supply commercial and industrial waste to the facility and to be the Enviroparks Operations partner responsible for the running of the plant. In their role as operator it is Biffa who are leading the permit application process. Biffa have experience operating many of these facilities across the UK

More information on Biffa can be found at www.biffa.co.uk

Construction of Phase 1 is scheduled to commence during 2014 and will take approximately six months to complete. Operations cannot commence without permit approval by NRW, and this application process typically takes 16 weeks to complete.

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Phase 1 illustrations



Illustration showing Phase 1 from the North East



Illustration showing Phase 1 from the South East



What does an environmental permit consider?

The permit ensures that the site is operated in a way that meets the environmental criteria required by NRW. Its primary focus is that operations on the site do not cause any emissions that exceed the safe levels determined by NRW.

The permit does not consider issues such as noise, traffic movements, building sizes, layouts or visual impact etc. as these were considered in detail by the planning authorities during the planning process.

How does the environmental permit application get processed by NRW?

NRW will make an initial assessment of the application to ensure that it is duly made, that is that it contains sufficient information for a determination of the application to be made.

Following this, NRW will consult with any other public bodies that they deem to have an interest in the application. These might include the Local Planning Authorities, the Sewerage Undertaker and the Health Protection Agency. Within 30 days of receiving the application they will also advertise the application stating where it can be viewed and inviting comments from the general public.

Natural Resources Wales will make an in depth assessment of the application documents, to satisfy themselves that the site will operate in accordance with the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010 (as amended). Because the application is for a listed activity this will include confirming that the best available techniques (BAT) have been applied to prevent pollution and provide a high level of protection to the environment, in accordance with the Industrial Emissions Directive. NRW must also carry out checks to ensure that the site operator is competent to operate the site; that they have sufficient financial backing; that they have suitable staff and management systems in place and that they are not deemed unsuitable to hold a permit, due to the nature of any previous convictions.

NRW may formally request further information from the applicant during the determination process.

Once they are satisfied that the facility will have appropriate measures in place to protect the environment and that it will be run by a competent operator NRW will issue a permit with a number of conditions relating to the proper operation of the site. They may refuse the permit if they consider that the proposed site operator is not competent or that the site cannot be operated without causing significant pollution or harm to human health.

Useful Information:

Permit Application Reference Number: *EPR/DP3037EU/A001*

Facility: *Enviroparks Materials Recovery Facility*

Operator: *Biffa Waste Services Ltd*

Wales Permitting Team: *02920 466 075*

General Enquiries: *0300 065 3000*

www.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

Enviroparks: *01873 853112*

www.enviroparks.co.uk