About this consultation

EX152FP, Acorn Bioenergy Operations Limited: environmental permit consultation

The aim of this consultation is to ask whether you have any comments relevant to the permit application

We want to make the best decision when permitting. Listening to the views of others helps us to take account of concerns, or local environmental factors, that we may not be otherwise aware of.

We are seeking comments on the application for Acorn Bioenergy Operations Limited. Please use the reference number below when making comments on this application.

- Permit Number: EPR/WP3227MF/A001
- Regulated facility type: The application for a new bespoke anaerobic digestion (AD) Installation activity for the treatment of 100,780 tonnes per year of liquid and solid feedstocks comprising livestock manures (poultry litter, pig and cattle slurry), energy crops and crop residues; as well as dirty water and non-hazardous liquid wastes to supplement process water use. The AD plant will treat waste and will have a treatment capacity of over 100 tonnes per day which constitutes a listed activity under Part 2 to Schedule 1 of the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2016 - S5.4A1(i). The AD process comprises 5 No. digesters of varying construction and configuration, including 3 No. conventional concrete digesters and 2 no. original Biogest PowerRing digesters (See EMS, Table 5 for Section 5.8 for details). The digesters operate as a series of primary and post-digestion tanks with separated liquid digestate storage incorporated within the inner section of Digester 5. The site will produce 20.382.803Nm3/y of biogas which will be used on site to generate heat and power and upgraded to biomethane for injection to the National Gas Grid via the Grid Entry Unit with carbon dioxide captured and liquified for use or sequestration. In addition, around 39,631 tpa of separated solid fibre digestate and 54,488 tpa of separated liquid digestate will be produced to be used as a biofertiliser on local farms. There was a previously disclaimed permit at the site location. The solid manures are stored in a dedicated Manure reception building (MRB) fitted with bespoke emissions abatement plant. A front loader is used to load chicken manure into the dedicated internal feed hopper associated with Feed System FS3 located within the Manure Reception Building. FS3 comprises a pre-mix and maceration system, incorporating progressive cavity pumps and in-line macerators, to produce a homogenised feedstock slurry suitable for pumping into the primary digesters. Dirty water from the silage clamps, digestate offtake point and areas designated as ‘dirty’ within the containment bund including; the

feeder loading area, and MRB is collected and reused in the process. Water collecting within the remainder of the secondary containment system is used within the AD process under normal operating conditions. Clean rainwater from the designated clean areas of the site including vehicle access and movement areas (collected via a full retention separator) and roofs may be discharged to the below ground cellular storage crate system before being either discharged via a pump chamber into the watercourse to the north of the site at the approved 2.8l/s or being harvested to the Liquid feedstock tanks for reuse within the process (preferred route). The impact of emissions to air from emission point (A1 to A22) has been assessed and included in the application.

- Regulated facility location: Devon Anaerobic Digestion Plant, Hide Market Road, Willand, EX152FP

Non-Technical Summary

Refer to the non-technical summary which explains this application, in non-technical language.
This should include a summary of the regulated facility, the key technical standards and control measures arising from the risk assessment.

What the response will be used for

We will take your consultation responses into consideration as part of our determination of the permit. If we decide to grant the permit we will explain how we made our decision and how we have addressed the concerns that were raised.

We will only issue a permit if we believe that harm to the environment, people and wildlife will be minimised and that the operator has the ability to meet the conditions of the permit. Providing a business can prove that the proposed activities meets all the legal requirements, including environmental, technological and health requirements, then we are legally obliged to issue a permit, even if some people do not approve of the decision.

How to Respond

If you would like to comment online, please use the online consultation tool in SmartSurvey.

If you'd prefer to submit your response by email, contact PSCpublicresponse@environment-agency.gov.uk

How we will use your information

We will look to make comments received publicly available at our Environment Agency public register.

All comments which are made publicly available will exclude email addresses and telephone numbers. Any comments where confidentiality has been claimed will not appear on the public register.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we may be required to publish your response to this consultation, but will not include any personal information. If you have requested your response to be kept confidential, we may still be required to provide a summary of it.

Consultation Principles

We are running this consultation in accordance with the criteria set out in the government's Consultation Principles.

If you have any queries or complaints about the way this consultation has been carried out, please email: PSCpublicresponse@environment-agency.gov.uk

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
0345 988 1188