

What are we informing you about?

The Environment Agency received an application from Covanta Energy Limited for an Environmental Permit early in 2017.

Following a detailed review and consultation process we have now decided to issue a permit to the applicant, Covanta Energy Ltd, for their site at Rookery pit in Stewartby. This permit is being issued today, 26 January 2018.

We have considered all the relevant factors, including all public consultation responses, and have reached the conclusion that, the proposals will not give rise to any significant pollution of the environment or harm to human health.

The public consultation response

We received approximately 3300 responses to our consultation from members of the public with the vast majority of these indicating an objection to a permit being issued.

Whilst the level of public response has been significant, it is important to note that under the relevant legislation we can only consider those issues which are relevant to the permitting process. This means that any planning related issues, for example the strategic need for a major waste plant in this location or traffic related impacts, cannot be considered as part of our decision making on the permit application.

Additionally, only those objections raised on materially significant technical grounds had the potential to affect our 'minded to issue' decision. Unlike a planning application, the law does not allow us to take the level of public concern into account when making our decision on a permit application.

However, we would like to thank all those members of the public who took the time to respond to our consultation. This has been an important element for us in ensuring that we make a fully informed and technically sound decision on the permit application.

Our permit decision

We completed our scrutiny of each and every consultation response. Annex 4 of our final Decision Document (see link below) explains how we have considered the individual issues raised by the public during the consultation process.

Fundamentally, we consider that the applicant's proposals coupled with appropriate regulatory conditions are such that the principal permitting objectives will be met. These objectives are that permitted activities must not cause any significant pollution of the environment or harm to human health.

Where can I get more information?

The finalised permit and our Decision Document can be found by following the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mk43-9ly-covanta-energy-limited-environmental-permit-issued>

Alternatively, should you wish to receive paper copies of these documents or any other Public Register information on the application, please contact our Customers & Engagement Team on 02030 255472 or by e-mail: enquiries_eastanglia@environment-agency.gov.uk

Continued public engagement

In view of the level of public interest concerning the Rookery Pit Energy Recovery Facility we are keen to ensure ongoing face to face engagement and dialogue with local people. There is an established community liaison panel in place and we will continue to attend and contribute to this. This will enable us to fully explain our day to day regulatory role and also how the public can access relevant environmental performance data.