

Briefing 3: Bridgwater Resource Recovery Facility

Permit application no: **EPR/UP3708SB/A001**

9 June 2021

Summary

- We closed our first public consultation on this permit application on 15 December 2020 and have been assessing the documents since then.
- We think we may grant the permit to Bridgwater Resource Recovery (BRR) Limited; this is called a 'minded to' decision.
- We have written a draft permit document and a draft decision document. We would like you to read them and send us your comments in our second consultation.
- We will make our final decision once we have reviewed these comments.
- We received 32 comments in our first consultation, and have answered your questions in our draft decision document.

Introduction

We let you know on 16 December 2020 that our first public consultation had closed. You can view publicly available comments here: https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/psc/ta6-6aj-bridgwater-resource-recovery-limited/consultation/published_select_respondent

We have reviewed all the comments you sent us, along with the documents submitted by BRR, and we are now 'minded to' grant this permit to Bridgwater Resource Recovery Limited.

This means we think we may grant the permit based on what we know so far, but we have yet to make a final decision. 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. 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 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.

How have we reached our decision so far?

We only issue new permits if we are satisfied that BRR has the appropriate systems in place to operate the incinerator 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.

How can I comment on the Draft Decision Document?

The consultation is now open and will run for 4 weeks. You can comment:

- Online on our Citizen Space Portal: [TA6 6AJ, Bridgwater Resource Recovery Ltd, EPR/UP3708SB/A001: environmental permit draft decision advertisement - Environment Agency - Citizen Space \(environment-agency.gov.uk\)](https://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/citizen-space/ta66aj-bridgwater-resource-recovery-ltd-epr-up3708sb-a001)
- By email: pscpublicresponse@environment-agency.gov.uk
- By post: Environment Agency Permitting and Support Centre, Land Team, Quadrant 2, 99 Parkway Avenue, Sheffield, S9 4WF
- A paper copy of the draft decision document is available to view and copy at: Rivers House, E Quay, Bridgwater TA6 4YS. Please call 03706 506 506 to book an appointment.

You may be charged for copying costs. We must receive your comments by **midnight on 7 July 2021**.

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 authority'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 response 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 comes to light, we will issue the permit to Bridgwater Resource Recovery Ltd soon after the close of the consultation.

How can I get further information?

Please address any questions about this permit application to pscpublicresponse@environment-agency.gov.uk.

For general information about our permitting process please see www.gov.uk/topic/environmental-management/environmental-permits.

If you would like to contact us with any general comments or enquiries, please email us at WessexEnquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Please call **0800 80 70 60** if you need to report an incident.