



## How to Have Your Say

### **Biomass UK No.2 Limited environmental permit application**

We are currently assessing an application, from Biomass UK No.2 Ltd, for a gasification facility which will recover energy from the treatment of pre-prepared mixed waste wood material.

We want to make the best decision when permitting. Listening to the views of others helps us to take account of concerns that we wouldn't otherwise be aware of. We value the responses we receive as they help us to ensure any decision we come to is appropriate and robust.

The application can be viewed at the following Natural Resources Wales' offices:

Cambria House, 29 Newport Road, Cardiff, CF24 0TP; and

Rivers House, St Mellons Business Park, St Mellons, Cardiff, CF3 0EY.

We have also made copies of the application available for viewing at:

Barry Library, The County Library, King Square, Barry, CF63 4RW; and

Barry Town Council, 7 Gladstone Road, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 8NA.

### **Natural Resources Wales' role**

Our role is to examine Biomass UK No.2 Limited's environmental permit application and to decide whether to grant a permit or refuse the application.

We are legally obliged to grant a permit if a business can show that the site meets all the legal, environmental, technological and health requirements of UK and European law.

The steps we follow when deciding whether to grant or refuse a permit are defined by legal requirements. We are required to justify this decision within the boundaries of these legal limitations. For example, it would not be appropriate for us to refuse the permit simply because there was local opposition to the activity being carried out at this location. However, we will consider all relevant information that is raised through this consultation.

We will only issue a permit if we believe that significant pollution will not be caused and the operator has the ability to meet the conditions of the permit. Any permit we may issue will include appropriate conditions to protect human health and the environment.

To help you, we have set out the main issues we can and cannot consider below.

### **Issues we can consider comments on include:**

- General operational management of the proposed facility
- Handling and storing of incoming waste wood
- Efficient use of raw materials, water and energy
- Control of odour, noise litter and vermin
- Control of emissions to the environment to permitted limits
- Monitoring of the gasification process to agreed procedures
- Monitoring of emissions to the environment to agreed standards
- Control of handling and storage of residual wastes from the process
- Potential impacts on health and the local environment
- Any relevant local factors that you believe Biomass UK No.2 Limited has not considered in its permit application

### **Issues we cannot consider comments on include:**

- Whether the proposed gasification plant would be best turned into an alternative technique for generation of renewable energy (e.g. wind or tidal power) or waste treatment
- Alternative locations and size for this proposed facility
- Operational hours
- The transport of waste to and from the site
- How much waste wood is used and where it comes from

- Whether a site should have a formal designation under conservation legislation

These issues are beyond the scope of our environmental regulations.

## Consultation with other organisations

We work with a number of organisations and expert bodies to seek their views on protecting human health and the environment. These include:

- Vale of Glamorgan Council
- Health and Safety Executive
- Public Health Wales
- South Wales Fire and Rescue Service
- Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water
- Food Standards Agency
- Cardiff and Vale University Health Board

For example, we have asked the health organisations to comment on potential health impacts of Biomass UK No.2 Limited's proposal and the Fire Service to comment on fire prevention planning. We will work closely with them to address public concerns and take their expert advice into account when making our decision.

## Next steps

We will look at any relevant comments as we carry out our assessment to decide whether we will grant or refuse a permit. We call the process of considering whether or not to grant a permit and setting permit conditions 'determination'.

The current determination date is 8 May 2017 but we encourage any representations to be made as early as possible so we can best take account of them during our ongoing assessment before that date.

We will then decide whether or not to grant an environmental permit and produce a decision document to explain how we've reached our decision.

If we decide to approve the application, we will produce an environmental permit and advertise the draft conditions and decision on our website for a further 28 days.

For more information, please visit <https://naturalresources.wales/how-we-regulate-you/permit-applications-consultations-and-decisions>

## Send us your comments

When making your comments, you may wish to consider the following questions. These are designed to help us understand your concerns and to identify relevant issues that need to be taken into account when we make a decision on this permit application.

Do you have any comments on Biomass UK No.2 Limited's proposals, for example:

1. How they propose to prevent or minimise pollution (including noise and odour)?
2. How they demonstrate that their proposals will not cause harm to human health?
3. How they demonstrate that their proposals will not cause harm to the environment?
4. Are there any local factors, e.g. local sensitive environmental features, which Biomass UK No.2 Limited has not considered in their permit application which you believe we should take into account?

Please also tell us any other information you believe we should take into account in reaching our decision.

Should you wish to make any comments on the application, please quote the application reference number PAN-000869 and send them into the Regulated Industry Permitting Team Leader, Natural Resources Wales, Cambria House, 29 Newport Road, Cardiff, CF24 0TP or email to [permittingconsultations@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk](mailto:permittingconsultations@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk)

We normally place all representations we receive on the public register. If you do not want either your identity or your full representation to appear on the public register, please let us know.

**This document is written in general terms to help you understand our permitting determination process. It is not meant as a substitute for advice on particular issues. You should seek specific advice before taking any action based on the information this document contains.**