



taflen wybodaeth

fact sheet

Proposed RWE npower Pembroke Power Station

Frequently asked questions

What does 'determination' mean?

- In this case the process of making the decision whether to grant or refuse a permit.
- If granting a permit, the decision as to what conditions are required to protect human health and the environment.

How long will you take to make a decision?

- We have **20 days** from receiving the application to having to declare it 'duly made'. An application is duly made if it contains the information required by the EA and is accompanied by the correct fee. This may result in the grant of a permit or the rejection of the application
- Once 'duly made', we will advertise the application on our website and in a local newspaper and invite individuals and organisations to comment on it. The application will be placed on the public registers. This consultation will normally be for a minimum of **28 days**. We take into consideration comments from the consultation and make our draft decision on the permit application. This phase lasts for a **statutory maximum of 4 months**, extendable with the agreement of the applicant. However the "clock stops" if we require further information from the applicant
- We will consider all the information and come to our draft decision whether or not to grant a permit.
- We may decide to have another consultation on our "draft" decision (known as a minded-to consultation) which will include an explanation of how we reached our draft decision and how we have taken into account each consultation response. We place the draft decision and supporting documents on the public registers (see below) and provide opportunities for interested parties to comment – **20 working days**.

- Following our minded-to consultation, we will then consider the comments that have been made and reach our final decision together with the accompanying explanatory Decision Document.

NB this entire process may take up to 12 months in complex cases

What will happen if the permit is not granted?

- The power station requires an Environmental Permit to operate. If the permit is refused the applicant may appeal against this decision.

What does it mean if a permit is granted?

- If a permit is granted the applicant can only operate the power station in accordance with the conditions set out in the permit.

When can we express our views?

- During the two consultation periods stated above.

What can and can't be influenced?

○ **Can influence the:**

- permit conditions, by providing information that we have not been made aware of in the application, or by correcting incorrect information in the application (e.g. monitoring and techniques to control pollution);
- type and duration of future engagement;
- attitude of the applicant/operator to engage with the community.

○ **Cannot influence:**

- the legally defined process we follow to determine a permit;
- anything outside the remit of the Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR) and relevant European Directives, e.g. the location of the site;
- the date when the application is submitted for the permit/variation;
- the granting of a permit/variation, where the operator is able to demonstrate that they can carry out the activity without significant risk to the environment or human health.

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How come the power station is already being built?

- RWE has decided to start construction before a decision is made about the Environmental permit. This decision is at their own risk and this has been made clear to the company. RWE has the necessary permission to build the power station but will need an EPR Permit to operate it.

What are you doing to control the impacts on the environment during construction?

- We are working closely with the site operators to minimise the impacts of the site during construction. An Environment Team including RWE, Countryside Council for Wales, Pembrokeshire County Council and ourselves has been set up to deal with any issues. This was a condition of the planning approval.

What is COMAH?

The Control of Major Accident Hazards – COMAH, is regulated jointly by the Health and Safety Executive and the Environment Agency.

- The COMAH regime aims to prevent and limit the consequences of major accidents at approximately 1000 establishments, which use or store significant quantities of dangerous substances, such as oil products, natural gas, chemicals or explosives.

A 'major accident' could involve an uncontrolled emission, fire or explosion leading to serious danger to human health or the environment. A major accident to the environment would cause severe and/or long-term damage.

Is the site subject to COMAH?

- It is possible that the power station may have to notify the competent authority for COMAH as a low tier establishment, due to the amount of water treatment and cleaning chemical being stored.

Surely the waste heat should be used?

- Ideally, this would happen. However, there are no immediate customers for the hot water. Reviewing energy efficiency would be an element of a permit ,if one were granted.

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What is current EA policy on Combined Heat and Power (CHP)?

- **Our Best Available Techniques (BAT) position is that we encourage people to build CHP plants.**

What does the Agency NOT DO?

We do not address issues that are outside our regulatory remit. In the determination of the EPR permit application, we *do not look at*, for example:

- The need to generate more electricity.
- The choice of location.
- The visual appearance of the plant.

The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) considered these matters as part of its Electricity Act consent determination, in consultation with Pembrokeshire County Council.

Where can we find out more?

- The application and other relevant information will be available on the public registers. There are two public registers that will have this information:

**The Environment Agency
South West Area Office
Maes Newydd
Llandarcy
Neath Port Talbot
SA10 6JQ**

and

**Pembrokeshire County Council Public Register
County Hall
Haverfordwest
Pembrokeshire
SA61 1TP**

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- You can inspect the documents free of charge at Environment Agency Wales' South West Area Office Monday to Friday between 09:30 – 16:30. Please contact the External Relations Team to arrange your visit.

Email: External_Relations_SWW@environment-agency.gov.uk

Tel: National Customer Contact Service on 08708 506 506.

Advisors will be able to direct your call to the relevant team/officer.

- You can also write in to ask for copies of all or part of the application. Depending on the amount of information requested, there may be a charge for this. You can visit our office (details above) and take photocopies of the application. There may also be a charge for this.

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