

What are we contacting you about?

This briefing is to provide an update on what has happened since we received an application for an Environmental Permit from Gent Fairhead & Co. Ltd in November last year.

What is our role?

Whilst the current planning permission for the proposed facility allows the plant to be built, an Environmental Permit must be in place before any commencement of waste treatment operations.

Our role is to consider the environmental impacts the proposed facility could have on human health, air, water, land, habitats and species of animals and plants. We also consider predicted noise levels, energy efficiency and whether the proposed technology is considered 'fit for purpose'.

If issued, an Environmental Permit for the facility would contain specific conditions that must be complied with. These conditions would include, for example, limits on the emissions from the Combined Heat and Power plant stack and how those emissions are to be monitored.

What has happened so far?

Following receipt of a legally valid application on 18 November 2015, we consulted on the permit application for a period of 28 days. The consultation period closed on 24 December 2015.

Our consultation process included the opportunity for the public to make representations on the application. As part of this process, a drop-in event was held at Silver End Village Hall on 6 December 2015 which was attended by around 60 local people.

As part of our consultation, we also invited comments on the permit application from the following organisations:

Braintree District Council - Environmental Protection
Colchester Borough Council - Planning
Essex County Council - Director of Public Health
Essex County Council - Planning
Essex County Fire & Rescue Service
Food Standards Agency
Health & Safety Executive
Public Health England

What is happening now?

We are continuing to consider the permit application but are not yet in a position to make a decision.

On 2 March 2016 we issued a Schedule 5 Notice on the applicant requiring specified information. The Notice did not allow for any material changes to the application but sought to clarify technical detail and require the submission of missing information.

The applicant responded to our Notice on 22 April 2016 and we are currently considering the information supplied.

At the very earliest, we could be in a position to make a decision before end of July 2016. However, this is a rough indication only and our determination process may take longer.

What are the possible outcomes?

If we decide to issue a permit, we will not do so until after a further period of public consultation. This 'minded to issue' consultation would be widely publicised and would include face to face drop-in events similar to the event we held in Silver End in December.

May 2016

Consultation at this stage would be based on a set of draft permit conditions and a draft Decision Document. Our draft Decision Document would include an explanation as to how we had considered any comments received on the application.

We would only issue a permit following consideration of any further representations.

Where can I get further information?

The full permit application submitted by Gent Fairhead & Co. Ltd is available on our Public Register. The Public Register also includes all comments received by us at the initial consultation stage. The Schedule 5 Notice and the information supplied by the applicant in response to this are also available to view on the Public Register.

Unfortunately, on-line access to our Public Register is not currently possible. Should you wish to view the Register and/or to discuss the application with one of our officers, please either call us to make an appointment to visit our Feering office or alternatively call our Customers & Engagement Team to make a request to be sent information.

Our Feering office can be contacted on 02030 258527 or 02030 258390.

Alternatively, please e-mail:
frank.saunders@environment-agency.gov.uk

Our Customer & Engagement Team can be contacted on 02030 255472 or e-mail:

ensenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk