

Ribble Valley Borough Council
Development Control
Council Offices Church Walk
Clitheroe
Lancashire
BB7 2RA

Our ref: NO/2017/109890/01-L01
Your ref: 3/2017/0434
Date: 01 June 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

MICRO SCALE AD (ANAEROBIC DIGESTER) COMPRISING AN AUTOMATED BIOGAS INSTALLATION CONVERTING SLURRY TO POWER AND HEAT ON THE FARM. THE USED SLURRY TO BE PUMPED INTO THE EXISTING SLURRY LAGOON AND SPREAD ON THE FARM AFTER PROCESSING.

LIME HOUSE FARM, CHIPPING ROAD, THORNLEY, PRESTON, PR3 2TE

Thank you for consulting us on the above application.

Environment Agency position

We have no objection in principle to the proposed development, but wish to make the following comments:-

Environmental permitting – waste

Based on the details as submitted, the proposed activities at this site would likely require a T24 waste exemption. The applicant would need to comply with specific conditions as part of this exemption:-

1. The total quantity of waste treated or stored at any one time does not exceed 1,250 cubic metres.
2. The minimum retention time for the waste in the digester is 28 days.
3. Any gas resulting from the operation is collected and then burnt in an appliance:
 - i. Where the requirements of specific condition 4 are met.
 - ii. The appliance is for the purposes of producing energy.
4. The appliance that the waste is burnt in has a net rated thermal input of less than 0.4 megawatts; and

Environment Agency
Lutra House Walton Summit, Bamber Bridge, Preston, PR5 8BX.
Customer services line: 03708 506 506
www.gov.uk/environment-agency

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5. Where the appliance is used together with other appliances (whether or not it is operated simultaneously with such other appliances), the aggregate net rated thermal input of all the appliances is less than 0.4 megawatts.

Advice to applicant

You will need to apply for a T24 waste exemption **before** the site becomes operational; it is free. If the site does not fit the above exempt rules an Environmental Permit will be required and an additional requirement for Environmental Permits is that secondary containment must be in place. It is illegal to operate without a T24 waste exemption or an Environmental Permit and you could face enforcement if you operate without one in place.

We also require details of the proposed digestate storage tank, build design, dimensions and capacity, and a design certificate to state the tank for the digestate is fit for purpose and will last over 20 years.

All associated structures i.e. silage clamps, slurry towers/lagoons must be fully compliant with The Water Resources (Control of Pollution) (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) Regulations 2010 (SSAFO) and as amended 2013. Environmental good practice advice is available in The Code of Good Agricultural Practice (COGAP) for the protection of water, soil and air (produced by DEFRA). The applicant is advised to review the existing on-farm slurry and manure storage and ensure compliance with the SSAFO Regulations. Further guidance is available of the GOV.UK website:

- Storing silage, slurry and agricultural fuel oil
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/storing-silage-slurry-and-agricultural-fuel-oil>
- Protecting our Water, Soil and Air: A Code of Good Agricultural Practice for farmers, growers and land managers
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protecting-our-water-soil-and-air>

Only clean surface water from roofs and paved areas should be discharged to any surface water soakaway or watercourse.

It should be noted that the grant of planning approval does not guarantee that any necessary permissions or consents that are required under separate legislation will be forthcoming.

Yours faithfully

Mr Alex Hazel (on behalf of Mrs Catherine Neild)
Planning Advisor - Sustainable Places Team

E-mail: CLPlanning@environment-agency.gov.uk