

**ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCES AUTHORITY**

Minutes of Board Meeting held on the 8 May 2026

Hexagon House, Marsa

**7176. IP 0005/25** – Renewal of IPPC permit (IP 0002/21) of the Delimara Power Station in relation to the operation of a power station consisting of various large and medium sized combustion plants, submitted by Enemalta plc., Electrogas Malta Ltd., D3 Power Generation Ltd and United Equipment Co. (UNEC) Ltd.

*Related Case Officer's Report and supporting documents circulated prior to the meeting.*

The Chairman invited the operators to give their presentations.

ElectroGas Malta (EGM)

Mr Michael Sant on behalf of EGM, gave an overview of the processes from receipt of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) to distribution, and explained that the permitted operations include the production of electrical energy through the combustion of natural gas using three combined cycle gas turbines and associated activities. The plant is also managed under an ISO 14001:2015-certified environmental management system (EMS), addressing environmental risk, operational controls, compliance, emergency preparedness (aligned with COMAH), and continuous improvement. Main impacts include air emissions and discharge of cooling waters. There is limited waste generation, with preference for recycling. A summary of the mitigation measures include adherence to Best Available Techniques (BAT), preventative maintenance, environmental management procedures (waste, chemicals, emergency response), certifications are up to date and monitoring of air, water, and noise, with no recorded exceedances.

United Equipment Co. Ltd. (UNEC)

Mr Michael Sant proceeded with the presentation on behalf of UNEC, and explained that the permitted operations involve the deployment of 48 containerised generator units for emergency use only, operating less than 500 hours per year. The plant is managed under an ISO 14001:2015-certified EMS, addressing risk management, operational controls, compliance management, emergency preparedness, and continuous improvement.

Reference was also made to the limited and temporary environmental impacts, mainly noise and air emissions during emergency operation, and highlighted the mitigation measures in place, including controls to prevent land and water contamination.

D3 Power Generation (D3PG)

Ing. Angela Marie Pulis on behalf of D3PG, informed that the permitted operations involve the generation of electrical energy through the combustion of natural gas and gasoil. An overview addressing the primary environmental impacts of the operations, specifically focusing on air, sea, land and noise emissions, along with the corresponding abatement measures and monitoring arrangements was provided. D3PG remains compliant with ISO 14001, ISO 9001 and ISO 45001 and Best Available Techniques.

Enemalta Plc

Ing. Carmen Abela, on behalf of Enemalta Plc, informed that Enemalta acts as the coordinator for common infrastructure at the Delimara Power Station (DPS), is responsible for the site overall, and is the permit holder for its plant. An operational overview was provided, noting that the emergency diesel-fired plant (D2) is used intermittently to ensure security of supply and operates within regulated hours applicable to such plants. Air emissions are calculated based on fuel consumption and established emission factors, while waste is appropriately managed and classified. An overview was also provided, covering emissions and environmental monitoring to air and sea, noise, land and groundwater, as well as marine ecology and sediment, where it was highlighted that certain monitoring is also carried out site-wide by Enemalta in its coordinating role. Regarding the Fuel tank farm, it was noted that Enemalta no longer uses Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) but instead utilises Low Sulphur Fuel Oil (LSFO), which are stored for third parties. It was also noted that all DPS plants are ISO 14001 certified and should the gas turbines return to normal operation, Best Available Techniques (BAT) measures such as benchmarking, emissions monitoring, and NO<sub>x</sub> abatement would need to be applied.

ERA then gave its presentation, noting that the application IP 0005/25 is for the renewal of the IPPC permit IP 0002/21 regulating the operation of the DPS. The permit structure consists of a regulatory framework permit addressing shared infrastructure and site-wide obligations, coordinated by Enemalta Plc., alongside four subsidiary permits governing operator-specific activities.

While each operator is responsible for distinct activities, the installation functions through interconnected systems including power generation unit, LNG storage and regasification, fuel storage and shared utilities. The installation falls primarily within the scope of large combustion plant activities, except for the temporary emergency plant, which is regulated as a medium combustion plant.

The Directorate noted that consultations with regulatory bodies and stakeholders did not raise objections. Feedback from consultees, including the Water Services Corporation, the Regulator for Energy and Water Services, the Environmental Health Directorate and the Climate Action Authority, confirmed no significant concerns with conditions or revised conditions included in the permit or recommended as an approved document, while ongoing matters related to fire safety and COMAH requirements remain under separate regulatory processes.

During the public consultation which ran from December 13, 2025 till January 13, 2026, one representation was received by the Birżebbuġa Local Council seeking clarification on LNG cargo operations and a proposed battery energy storage system (BESS). The Authority clarified that existing permits already cover LNG activities and that the battery project will be addressed separately.

The Directorate explained that the renewed permit includes updates to monitoring requirements, reporting, and operational conditions, including revised sediment thresholds, reduced monitoring frequency at certain discharge points, removal of selected parameters, and updated limit values, while maintaining environmental quality standards for priority substances and applying BAT-AELs to other pollutants. Outdated conditions have been removed and additional ones were introduced, including mitigation measures for inert gas generator emissions and updated provisions on fuel storage and emissions control. A status update of the improvement programme (IP) items for the framework and subsidiary permits was provided, with most IP items addressed. One IP item in the Framework Permit remain outstanding and was retained, related to the coordinated land and groundwater routine monitoring and reporting while a new IP item was introduced in the Enemalta Plc. Subsidiary Permit for the improvements to the tank bunds and their certification.

Compliance performance across all operators was reported as satisfactory, with no significant environmental incidents recorded. Site inspections confirmed adherence to permit conditions with only minor follow-up identified, primarily of an administrative or maintenance nature.

The Directorate also summarised the feedback received from permit holders following circulation of the draft permit, together with the Authority's position in response. Such feedback mainly focused on clarifying reporting requirements, removing overlaps, and increasing flexibility in monitoring. ERA agreed to various revisions, including updates to monitoring methodologies, removal of outdated requirements, and clarification of responsibilities, while retaining key conditions to align with BAT and ensure a holistic site approach.

The Directorate recommended to extend the validity of the existing permit IP 0002/21 until 10 August 2026 to allow completion of outstanding financial guarantees and fee payments.

The Directorate recommended the **GRANTING** of the Permit for a period of **ten (10) years**, subject to conditions and the following post-decision requirements applicable to each respective Permit Holder:

For ElectroGas Malta Ltd.:

- Submission of a bank guarantee of € 3,000,000 covering the obligations of Subsidiary Permit 1 and the operator specific conditions in the Framework Permit;

For D3 Power Generation Ltd.:

- Submission of a bank guarantee of € 1,000,000 covering the obligations of Subsidiary Permit 2 and the operator specific conditions in the Framework Permit;
- Settlement of the annual fee for 2026 amounting to €1,182.50.

For Enemalta plc.:

- Submission of a bank guarantee of € 1,000,000 covering the Permit Coordinator requirements in the regulatory framework permit covering conditions related to common infrastructure and permit obligations;
- Submission of a bank guarantee of € 1,000,000 covering the obligations of Subsidiary Permit 3 the operator specific conditions in the Framework Permit;

For United Equipment Co. Ltd.;

- Submission of a bank guarantee of € 63,000 covering the obligations of Subsidiary Permit 4 and the operator specific conditions in the Framework Permit.

The Chairman then asked whether there were any further comments or questions following ERA's presentation. There were no comments from the operators.

Ms Marianna Galea Xuereb remarked that the presentations were interesting and relevant, but that ideally they should have been published earlier, for the benefit of the public. In reply the Chairman noted that such practice is not a legal requirement and that a public consultation had been held. It was also noted that the presentations had likewise been presented to the Board on the same day.

Ms Galea Xuereb further enquired as to whether the erection of cooling towers had ever been considered. The Directorate replied that no impacts from cooling water had been identified and noted that DPS carries out extensive monitoring, which to some an extent is stricter than that applied in other Member States. Another concern was raised regarding the impacts of methane, potentially having higher impacts than carbon monoxide when leaked and that a ten-year renewal

suggest no end in sight. In response, the Directorate explained that the matter falls under the greenhouse gas permit, which is within the remit of the Climate Action Authority and forms part of its consultation process. It was also added that the power plant is expected to continue evolving in line with directives, with operations improving as regulations are updated.

As there were no further comments, the Chairman put the application to a vote.

Members voting **in favour** of the granting of the permit, as recommended by the Directorate:

Perit Vincent Cassar, Chairman

Dr Christopher Ciantar

Mr Kurt Farrugia

Prof. Saviour Formosa

Perit Kevin Fsadni

Mr Martin Galea Degiovanni

Mr Isaak Koroma

Ms Charmaine Mangion

Members who **objected** to the granting of the permit as recommended: NIL.

Based on the vote taken by the Board, the application was **approved**.

MS. LORNA FARRUGIA  
ERA BOARD SECRETARY