



Case Officer Report

Subject: IP 0003/21 - Application for the renewal of the Marsa Power Station permit
IP 0003/07/C

Date: 19th August 2021

To: ERA Board

From: Environment and Resources Directorate

Case Officer: Gabriella Grima

1. Background

This report has been prepared for the determination of IP 0003/21 renewal of IP 0003/07/C for the operation of a power station carrying out activities 1.1 (combustion of fuels in installations with a total rated thermal input of 50 MW or more) as per Schedule 1 of S.L.549.77 submitted by Ing. Jason Vella. In this regard, the application was received on 25 February 2021 and a consolidated application was submitted on 2 July 2021.

2. Case Officer Report

3.1 Proposal

The applicant has applied for a renewal of the current permit retaining the same activities already permitted, with the removal of certain activities which are no longer valid due to the completion of the decommissioning activities as part of IP 0003/07/C

Table 1		
Activity	Description of specified activity	Limits of specified activity
Section 1.1: Combustion installations with a rated thermal input exceeding 50 MW	Generation of electrical energy through the combustion of gasoil.	From receipt of fuel to delivery of utility.
Associated activity of fuel handling and storage	Handling and storage of gas oil.	From receipt of the fuel to storage in tanks and combustion in the combustion plant
Associated activity of utilities	Sea water pre-treatment plant.	From intake of sea water to delivery of utility.

Associated activity of storage, treatment and disposal/recycling of waste materials	Handling, storage, treatment and disposal/recovery of wastes from installation.	From generation of waste to disposal or recycling onsite or offsite.
Associated activity of maintenance	Maintenance carried out in any workshop in the installation.	From maintenance activity to appropriate recovery/ disposal of any wastes created.

Proposed Emissions and Mitigation

Table 2		
Emission Point	Source	Mitigation
MPS5	OCGT9 (Gas turbine 9) – 121 MW _{TH}	N/A
DP1	Rainwater	Interceptor
DP18	Rainwater	N/A
DP20	Gas oil bund	Interceptor

3.2 Supporting documents recommended for approval

- Documents: IP 0003/21

3.3 Applicable law/ policy

The installation carries out of activities which fall within scope of the Industrial Emissions (Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control) Regulations, in particular Activity 1.1:

“Combustion of fuels in installations with a total rated thermal input of 50 MW or more”

The proposal is to comply with:

- Environment Protection Act (CAP. 549);
- Industrial Emissions (Framework) Regulations (S.L. 549.76)
- Industrial Emissions (Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control) Regulations (S.L. 549.77)
- Industrial Emissions (Large Combustion Plants) Regulations (S.L. 549.78)
- Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/1442 of 31 July 2017 establishing **best available techniques (BAT) conclusions for large combustion plants** under Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council

3.4 Site Description and Constraints

The site is located at Church Wharf, Marsa and covers an area of about 64,800m². The site was formerly used for the generation of electricity but was closed down in 2016 and the majority of

structures on the site subsequently dismantled, with the exception of the gas turbine and its associated diesel tank in the eastern part of the site and administration buildings in the south western part. The majority of the site is covered in hard standing comprising either asphalt or concrete. In terms of the surrounding land uses, land to the north is predominantly industrial, storage and transport related use. To the east and south lies the Grand Harbour, beyond which are further industrial and transport facilities. To the west and North West, there is a mixture of industrial, commercial, residential and limited agricultural and recreational and leisure uses. An initial land monitoring study was carried out in 2011 and subsequently in 2018 following the completion of the decommissioning activities. This this included waste acceptance testing in case excavations are required as part of the preparation of the site for future use. The results of analyses were compared in the report against international reference values for residential/public space; industrial/commercial use; negligible risk levels and intervention levels. A degree of contamination was noted through the study.

Following the results of the study, a subsequent risk assessment was carried which concluded that the risk to the environment and human health arising from leaving those materials identified as having contaminant levels above reference levels for residential/green space and industrial/commercial use is low, with the exception of those materials which are classified as hazardous waste. This assessment does, however, rely on the presence and retention of the tarmac and concrete hardstanding currently present over much of the site. It was also recommended that, in the event of any alternative short-term use for the site be proposed pending full redevelopment, further risk assessment should be carried out, in particular any activity that could introduce new contaminants or alter potential pathways for contaminant migration. As it stands redevelopment of the site is still unknown.

3.5 Site History

The following permitting history is noted on site:

Number	Title	Status
IP 0003/07/A	New application	Granted on 26 March 2010 for a period of 4 years
	Request for minor variation	Granted on 26 May 2014
IP 0003/07/B	Partial surrender	Granted on 11 June 2015 for a period of 4 years
IP 0003/07/C	Partial surrender and renewal	Granted on 15 September 2017 for a period of 4 years
	Variation to permit IP 0003/07/C relating to the bund certification	Granted on 7 October 2019
PA 3789/92	Application to construct canteen, clinic, guard room and garages	Granted on 28 July 1993
PA 4516/99	Full development application to construct security guardroom at	Granted on 22 September 2000

	Marsa Power Station [Inside power station complex Marsa.	
PA 1071/01	Full development application to construct switchgear room.	Granted on 3 August 2001
PA 2936/04	Full development application to carry out extension of existing offices.	Granted on 8 November 2004
PA 3908/08	Full development application to carry out minor internal alterations, installation of lift and modifications to main entrance.	Granted on 10 December 2007
PA 4968/08	Full development application to construct a 132KV distribution centre.	Granted on 21 January 2014
PA 3440/09	Renewal development application to carry out extension of offices.	Granted on 19 February 2011
PA 5543/09	Full development application to construct district office at Marsa Power Station.	Granted on 11 September, 2012
PA 2968/13	Amended application for the excavation of an underground tunnel from Marsa power station to Qormi, and the temporary use of working area at Marsa and Qormi	Suspended
PA 3349/14	To decommission, dismantle and demolish Marsa Power Station	Granted on 2 April 2015
DN 1655/14	Development Notification Order to demolish chimneys and tanks at Marsa Power Station.	Granted on 7 November 2014

3.6 Consultations

i. Intra-ERA Feedback

The Ambient Quality & Waste Unit recommended that the AER submission takes place in March as opposed to June. Additionally it was commented that the noise monitoring is to be carried out during the day time to be representative of the

operational situation. There was also agreement that there is no longer the need that MPS conducts construction noise monitoring.

ii. Feedback from External consultees

The Regulator for Energy and Water Services, the Environment Health Directorate had no comments. Both water Services Corporation and the Occupational Health and Safety Authority stated they have no objection. No feedback was received from The Energy and Water Agency, Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority, Malta Resources Authority, Planning Authority and Civil Protection Department and Transport Malta.

iii. Feedback from Applicant

The applicant requested minor clarifications and amendments to the permit, the latter of which for the most part are updated and addressed in the proposed permit.

The applicant requested that the specified notification for the operation of the OCGT9 for the monthly testing is amended from the pre-notification requirement stipulated in the current permit. This is in view that consistently the operation of the OCGT9 takes place every month for a period of approximately an hour, as part of the maintenance programme of the gas turbine. The Directorate is of the position that the request put forward by Enemalta plc. is not entertained, and the current permit condition and procedure to be followed shall remain, as is being proposed in the permit.

The applicant requested that the calculation methodology for the determination of air emissions stipulated in the permit is updated to reflect the agreed methodology to be followed as was agreed with the Authority.

The applicant also requested that the section of the discharges to marine water is amended to reflect actual operation condition of the site. In the case of interceptors, the applicant stated that only Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons on an annual basis is carried out the Delimara Power Station, and thus the Marsa Power Station should be updated to reflect the same approach. Following the decommissioning of the Marsa Power Station, there are no process water generated on site, thus the Directorate has updated the monitoring obligations and monitoring requirements for the remaining discharge points to be proportional to the environmental risk posed by such outlets.

3.7 Representations from public

- i. Public consultation dates:** 17th July 2021 to the 31st July 2021
- ii. Responses received:** No public comments received;

3.8 Discussion

Following submission of the renewal application, the ERD noted that the decommissioning activities, which were permitted through IP 0003/0/C were completed. Consequently, a number of activities which were in the current permit are no longer valid, the proposed permit reflects these changes.

Consultation was carried out both within ERA and with the required statutory consultees as well as with the public. ERD consolidated the feedback from the regulatory and internal consultees in which any queries were addressed by the Operator. No comments were received from the public.

The permit has been updated to reflect the Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/1442 establishing the Best available techniques (BAT) conclusions for large combustion plants was published on 31 July 2017. The Operator carried out an appraisal with the BAT conclusions, the requirements of the BAT are reflected in the proposed permit.

No improvement programme item has been included in the permit.

A site visit was carried out on the 16th July 2021 in which no issues were noted on site.

3.9 Financial Matters

Application Fee	€6,077.50
Financial guarantee	€16,640 (current financial guarantee amounts to €34,500)
Annual Fee	Prior to issue of the permit, the applicant shall pay ERA the sum of € 7872.75 to cover the annual contribution until year 2022 (€2,155 per year for the period 2019 – 2021 and € 607.75 for the year 2022) and the inspection fee covering 4 inspection carried out to date (rate of €200 per inspection).

3. Environment Officer Recommendation:

- The Environment and Resources Directorate recommends the GRANTING of the Permit for a period of four (4) years subject to the following conditions as post decision requirements:
 - (a) Submission of bank guarantee of € 16,640
 - (b) Annual fee of € 7872.75 (€2,155 per year for the period 2019-2021 and € 607.75 for the year 2022) and 4 inspections carried out to date (rated at €200 per inspection)

The proposed permit conditions include

- Standard conditions applicable to this sector;
- Site-specific conditions :

- Conditions related to calculation of emissions subject that the plant is continued to be used as a back-up plant (plant does not exceed 1,500hrs of operation), as previously agreed with the Authority.
- Notification of number of hours for which the plant is put into operation
- In relation to emissions from MPS 5, the Authority reserves the right to request the re-introduction and/or re-calibration of CEMS in the event that the plant is no longer utilised as a back-up plant.

This report to the ERA Board has been prepared, reviewed and endorsed by:	
Case Officer: Gabriella Grima	Endorsed by: Simon Farrugia
Env. Protection Officer	Senior Env. Protection Officer
Signature:	Signature:
Date: 19 th August 2021	Date: 19 th August 2021
Endorsed by: Nathalie Ellul	
Unit Manager (Env. Permitting)	
Signature:	
Date: 19 th August 2021	