

Consultation on Angus Fire Limited's Application to Vary their Environmental Permit for their High Bentham Site

How you can get involved

About the application

We have received an application from Angus Fire Limited to vary their environmental permit for their site at High Bentham.

Previously, Angus Fire Limited manufactured and tested firefighting foam at their High Bentham site. This foam is known to have contained per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). These PFAS chemicals are transferred into rainwater falling onto the site. Angus Fire have been collecting this rainwater so they can treat it and reduce the PFAS substances.

The application is for an effluent treatment plant to reduce the PFAS in the collected rainwater and the future rainwater that falls onto the site. Once treated, the rainwater will be discharged to the River Wenning. The proposed level of PFAS remaining in the treated rainwater discharged into the river would be in line with levels currently accepted as best practice for PFAS treatment processes.

Angus Fire no longer manufactures firefighting foam at their High Bentham site. The application is for treating rainwater to reduce PFAS chemicals from the site's previous manufacturing processes.

If the application shows that the site can operate in a way that meets all current environmental regulations and will provide a high level of protection of the environment and human health, we must issue the permit variation for the site.

When considering whether we can issue the variation, we assess the impact of emissions from the proposed change. We welcome comments from the community on these issues.

The issues we can take account of include:

- Relevant environmental regulatory requirements and technical standards. The main ones being the Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPRs) and Industrial Emissions Directive.
- Information on local population and sensitive sites (such as local houses and wildlife habitats).
- Corrections to any incorrect information in the application.



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Issues we can't take account of include:

- Strength of public opposition to the variation application. While we understand that people may be strongly opposed to an application, we must make an objective assessment of it. We can only assess it against criteria set out in the relevant environmental regulations, such as the Environmental Permitting Regulations.
- Emissions not affected by the proposed change to the permit.

How you can view and comment on the application

The public consultation for this application is open from 24 July 2025 until 21 August 2025.

You can view and make your comments on our online consultation tool at <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/psc/la2-7na-angus-fire-limited>.

You can also email your comments to us at pscpublicresponse@environment-agency.gov.uk.

All comments, including names, will be publicly available unless otherwise requested. Contact details will not be included.

Please call the Environment Agency's National Customer Contact Centre on 03708 506 506 for advice about how to comment, or how to view a copy of the application documents, if you don't have online access.

Our consultation must be fair and transparent. This requires everyone to have the same information on which to comment. We can't enter into detailed discussions or correspondence with an individual on an application as this would mean they had information not available to others.

All comments on the application must be in writing, preferably through our consultation tool or by email.

Next Steps

If we consider the permit variation application meets all current environmental legislation and will provide a high level of protection of the environment and human health, we will issue a draft decision document and a draft environmental permit. We will then consult further on these draft documents.

Any draft decision document would set out our response to any consultation comments we receive. It would also set out the reasons for our decision. Draft decision documents group similar comments together with one response. We don't reply to each person individually.

We will issue another update once we have decided if we will be consulting on a draft decision document and draft permit.


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