

Whiteshore Cockles Limited  
Permit Variation Application

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY:

Whiteshore Cockles Limited is making this permit variation application under regulation 25 of the Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Regulations 2018 No.219. The variation is to the existing permit (PPC/A/5001983) issued to Whiteshore Cockles Limited, for the Disposing of or recycling animal carcasses and animal waste at installations with a capacity exceeding 10 tonnes per day and other than by incineration or co-incineration and any directly associated activities, as further detailed in this permit and described in Schedule 20, chapter 6 paragraph 33 of the Regulations.

The facility is located at Whiteshore, Kyles, Paible, Bayhead on the isle of North Uist (Figure 1). The approximate centre of the facility is at National Grid Reference (NGR): 073720 866410. The site comprises approximately 2 hectares of land on a broadly rectangular shaped plot and is currently occupied by the new process buildings on a 0.4-hectare concreted area. The existing permit issued to Whiteshore Cockles Ltd allows the facility to receive fish morts from the Scottish aquaculture industry for processing into fish meal, fish oil and condensate by the introduction of heat.

From the two years since the issue of the permit the aquaculture industry has approached the Whiteshore facility for its waste ensiled fish morts to be collected and processed. The acceptance of ensiled fish morts at the Whiteshore Cockles processing facility will require the facility to install additional storage tanks (400,000l) to hold the ensiled fish prior to processing through the dryer. The ensiled fish would be delivered to the facility by bulk road tanker and pumped into the specific ensiled fish morts storage tanks.

In order to provide additional contingency for the fish morts rendering operations to accommodate situations such as plant breakdowns it would be sensible that the Whiteshore installation has the facility to carry out its own ensiling of fish morts. This would involve fish morts received into the storage pit being macerated and then ensiled on the site where the ensiled fish morts would be stored in designated ensiled fish storage tanks.

The ability to ensile fish on site would also enable the facility to process a mass casualty incidence by being able to process larger numbers of fish morts and preserving the quality of the morts until they are processed. The ensiling of fish morts will include the installation of a 10,000-litre tank to store formic acid and a 10,000-litre mixing tank.

The processing of ensiled fish morts to fish meal, fish oil and condensate will be conducted inside a new process building which would be constructed immediately adjacent to the existing production building and within the existing process boundary. The second building will be connected internally with the existing processing building and will house a series of 3 mixing bowls, for the heat treatment of the ensiled fish morts as required by the Method 6 process. The oil will be separated in a de-cantor and the remaining solids and water will be pumped to the ABP dryer and processed in the normal manner using the method 4 process.

The new processing building will be to the same construction specification as the existing building. Part of the new building will be kept under constant negative pressure using an extension of the extraction duct work from the existing building which will take the internal air to be treated through the onsite wet scrubber unit. Condition 3.2.2 of the existing permit allows the production throughput of the dryer at 2 tonnes per hour and 48 tonnes in any 24-hour period.

The production capacity of the dryer is governed by the steam input which in turn is limited to the thermal output of the steam raising boiler. The boiler specification was compiled at the initial design stage for the process which is now nearing seven years ago. It became apparent once the process began operation that the steam raising capacity was inadequate and following an independent engineering review an additional steam raising boiler was proposed to supplement the biomass boiler.

An additional kerosene fuelled boiler is now on site and in the process of being commissioned under a temporary position statement issued on 20/01/2025 and detailed in appendix 4 accompanying this report. A air impact screening assessment using the SCAIL model for the second boiler has been submitted to SEPA. The report for the output of the screening exercise is documented in appendix 7. The additional liquid fuel boiler has the ability to burn fish oil as a fuel blend which would assist to mitigate logistical challenges associated with the removal of the fish oil from site for bio-diesel production particularly during winter months. The additional steam capacity from the operation of a second boiler enables the dryer to process up to 4 tonnes of material per hour and 96 tonnes in any 24 -hour period which is the manufacturers throughput maximum.