

PPC/A/1032878 – Viridor Dunbar Energy Recovery Facility  
Variation Application VAR04  
Non-technical summary

Viridor Dunbar Waste Services Ltd (Viridor) operates the Dunbar Energy Recovery Facility (the ERF).

A Pollution Prevention and Control permit (PPC permit) was granted for this site by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) in July 2011. This has been subsequently varied on several occasions. The PPC regulations were replaced by the Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Regulations (EASR) in November 2025. Viridor is applying to vary the PPC permit under the Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Regulations 2018 (EASR), as amended by the Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2025.

The ERF consists of a two-line energy from waste plant which is used to recover energy from non-hazardous municipal, commercial and industrial waste by incineration, and a back-up generator for the provision of emergency electrical power.

Viridor is proposing to vary the PPC permit to allow for an increase from 23.95 tonnes per hour (tph) per line to 27.6 tph per line, equivalent to an increase of 3.65 tph per line, or 7.3 tph across the ERF. The proposed annual permitted throughput will increase from 390,000 tonnes per annum (tpa) to 483,552 tpa. To facilitate the proposed increase in the capacity, Viridor is proposing to make several upgrades to the combustion controls systems and associated equipment.

Viridor is also proposing to add the waste codes 19 08 01 'screenings from wastewater treatment plants'; and 19 08 05 'sludges from the treatment of urban wastewater'.

This application is supported by a Dispersion Modelling Assessment; Dioxin Pathway Intake Assessment; and an Abnormal Emissions Assessment which have been produced to quantify the impact of the proposals on air quality, human health and ecology during normal operation and abnormal operations as defined within the Industrial Emissions Directive.

As demonstrated within the environmental assessments completed to support the application, the proposed changes will not have a significant impact on human health or the environment. As the proposed increase in capacity is more than 3 tph, this application is being submitted as a substantial variation.