

SEPA received an application from Shetland Islands Council (SIC), on the 14 January 2022, to vary the conditions of their existing permit (PPC/A/1003141), issued under the Pollution Prevention and Control (Scotland) Regulations 2012, to accept and incinerate a restricted type and quantity of healthcare waste. Specifically wastes from the 'European Waste Catalogue 1801 series':

- 180103\* (wastes whose collection and disposal is subject to special requirements in order to prevent infection);
- 180106\* (chemicals consisting of, or containing, hazardous substances);
- 180107 (chemicals other than those mentioned in 180106); and
- and 180109 (medicines other than cytostatic or cytotoxic drugs).

During the pandemic (and as a result of limited processing capacity on mainland Scotland following the collapse of the previous NHS waste contractor) SEPA issued an enforcement position that allowed SIC to temporarily accept and process a restricted amount of clinical waste at their Lerwick Energy Recovery Plant (LERP). This application is to formalise that enforcement position by amending the conditions of the existing permit to allow LERP to accept and incinerate specified clinical wastes.

New infrastructure (initially a front-end hoist lift and feed hopper, to be replaced with a fully automated bin loading system) is being installed within the main process building to ensure that all hazardous clinical waste can be fed into the incinerator without unnecessary handling or mixing with other wastes. There are no changes to site emissions or overall waste volumes expected from this variation request.

The Operator has managed the plant in compliance with their permit over the two-year period they have been accepting healthcare waste under an agreed 'temporary enforcement position'.

In determining this application SEPA has ensured that all legislative requirements have been met, that due regard has been given to all applicable guidance, and that consideration has been given to issues raised during the consultation process.

Determination of the application has found no potential for significant pollution and the measures proposed by the Applicant have been determined to represent Best Available Techniques (BAT). Additional permit control conditions are proposed to ensure pollution, and the potential for incidents, are minimised in line with BAT.