

RWE Markinch – PPC/A/1096556 VAR02 Non-Technical Summary

SEPA issued PPC Permit Ref. PPC/A/1096556 to RWE for Markinch Power Station on 26 June 2012. The plant was initially constructed as a Combined Heat and Power (CHP) plant burning a combination of virgin wood and waste wood to provide steam to the adjacent Tullis Russell Paper Mill and electricity to the National Grid via a steam turbine. The Permitted Installation also included 3 gas-fired package boilers for back up steam generation.

Tullis Russell went into administration on 1 April 2015 as Markinch Power Station became fully operational and the package boilers were decommissioned as steam demand dropped. Electricity continued to be exported to the National Grid and some steam was delivered to the smaller Glenrothes Paper mill.

Since 2019, hot water has been delivered to the Glenrothes District Heating Network where it is utilised by local housing and businesses via the Glenrothes Energy Centre (GEC) constructed at the Power station in 2018. GEC has hot-water storage and back up boilers to enable hot water to continue to be supplied to the local heat network when the Power Station is off-line.

RWE have applied for a substantial variation to the permit to install and operate two containerised natural gas-fired generating engines as part of the Standby Support System (SSS) project. The SSS project will provide emergency back-up power to the existing CHP and GEC units which will be located on land belonging to RWE Markinch.

This variation follows on from a previous variation issued 5 October 2018 to support the Glenrothes Energy Centre (GEC) District Heating scheme. That variation introduced a schedule which detailed the conditions for the Energy Centre, and this has been varied to include engines and associated equipment for the SSS project.

Variation VAR02 adds the SSS Engines as installations, adds medium combustion plant reporting requirements for this installation and adds additional requirements of the SSS Engines.