

Non-technical Summary

The application was made under The Pollution Prevention and Control (Scotland) Regulations 2012 (PPC) for a 'Combustion Part A Activity' for 'burning any fuel in a combustion appliance with a rated thermal input of 50 MW or more'. The permit application is for an existing Energy Centre and associated combustion units at NHS Grampian's Foresterhill Health Campus, Foresterhill Road, Aberdeen, AB25 2ZN. The campus includes the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary and other health related services.

The Energy Centre comprises five combustion units: a Combined Heat & Power (CHP) plant of capacity 19.78 MWth, a Biomass Boiler of capacity 8.56 MWth, and three Dual Fuel Boilers of capacities 11.23 MWth (2 No) and 8.03 MWth. The CHP burns natural gas, the Biomass Boiler waste wood and the Dual Fuel Boilers normally natural gas or occasionally fuel oil (diesel). The total capacity of the Energy Centre is 58.83 MWth. Each unit is technically separate and can be operated independently; the Energy Centre is therefore not aggregated and classed as a Large Combustion Plant (LCP).

There are two other combustion units on the campus of size greater than 1 MW, but there are 27 other units present of less than 1 MW capacity. Furthermore, there are 29 emergency standby generators distributed throughout the site, many of greater than 1 MW, but on limited hours of operation or testing (less than 500 hours per annum).

Permit conditions address the operation and maintenance of the Energy Centre and some of the smaller combustion units. Regulatory controls cover energy efficiency and waste management, as well as noise and vibration. Defined conditions address air emissions sampling and monitoring, for the purposes of maintaining local air quality. All permit emission limit values (ELVs) are Medium Combustion Plant (MCP) related and include strict limits for NO_x and particulate matter (depending on the combustion unit).

The permit application has demonstrated 'Best Available Techniques' (BAT) for the design, construction, operation and maintenance of the Energy Centre. No adverse impacts on air quality have been detected by local monitoring stations operated by Aberdeen City Council.