



What is a Pollution Prevention Control Permit?

A Pollution Prevention Control (PPC) Permit is a document prepared and enforced by the statutory regulator. In the case of the Overwood ERF, this is the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA). The PPC Permit has conditions which the operator, in this case Viridor, must adhere to. A PPC Application will be submitted to SEPA in parallel with the submission of the Planning Application to South Lanarkshire Council. A PPC Permit must be issued by SEPA before waste can be accepted and treated at Overwood ERF.

The purpose of a PPC Permit is to ensure that the facility and its emissions are strictly monitored and controlled, which will prevent or minimise any potential impacts on the environment and human health.

SEPA has enforcement powers at all regulated waste management facilities to ensure compliance to prescribed environmental performance standards as set out in the PPC Permit.

The PPC Permit would include conditions relating to the management of the facility, activities permitted, strict emissions limits, and state which waste types could be processed.

How is the site regulated?

Should the ERF be granted a permit by SEPA, they will continuously assess plant operations and its environmental performance against the standards set in the PPC Permit. This will include regular site inspections and review of environmental performance data.

Viridor would continuously monitor and control aerial emissions from the process and periodically report the results to SEPA, this data is also placed on the Public Register where it is freely available to the public. In addition, reviews of monitoring techniques and assessment of monitoring results to measure the performance of the plant are carried out by the regulator.

As well as making spot checks, independent routine monitoring of emissions from the facility will be carried out.

SEPA has the authority to take appropriate enforcement action and / or prosecute the operator and depending on the seriousness of any breach could revoke the PPC Permit.

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency and its role

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) is the statutory regulator in Scotland that protects and improves the environment.

Although an independent public body, it works closely with the Scottish Government to achieve the best possible results for the environment.

If a PPC Permit for an ERF is granted, SEPA would regulate the facility from the start of construction to full operation through regular inspections of the facility and auditing of compliance with the permit requirements derived from the Pollution Prevention and Control (Scotland) Regulations 2012. SEPA would also review and monitor all reports submitted by Viridor and would investigate any complaints made by members of the public. If there are problems associated with the facility, SEPA has an enforcement policy, which has a range of different options at its disposal dependant on the degree of non-compliance.