



**This is a copy of the Request for Further Information (RFI) requested by EPA on
13 May 2022**

Applicant: Esso Australia Pty Ltd

Activity site: 11 Bayview Rd, Hastings, VIC, 3915

Application: APP09563

Our Ref: RFI002141

Summary of Request:

Request for further information - Permission Application APP009563

Request Detail:

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your permission application APP009563 seeking a Development Licence. On Wednesday the 17th of February EPA accepted the application from ESSO AUSTRALIA PTY LTD for the K01 Power Generation and L01 General Emissions to Air prescribed activities at 11 Bayview Road, Hastings Victoria 3915.

EPA understands from the application that the existing ethane disposition methods might no longer be available. EPA understands that this development licence application is seeking approval to implement an alternative use for the ethane and that the current option is destruction via flaring. EPA understands the importance of the infrastructure that is associated with the operation of the Long Island Point gas fractionation plant and its importance in delivering gas to households in Victoria.

EPA understands that the electricity generators proposed in this permission application will be able to use excess ethane to generate electricity and reduce the need for flaring. EPA understands that the flares are an essential part of the plant used to burn gas in a safe way when the operation is disrupted.

As per Section 44 (1) (c) of the Environment Protection Act 2017, EPA considers that this application modifies the plant, equipment, processes or systems of the operation of a prescribed development activity conducted under operating licence OL000002613 and is a relevant consideration to the proposed ethane generation plants and flaring as part of this proposal.

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As per section 50(3) of the Environment Protection Act 2017, the Authority requires the provision of additional information relating to an application. The time that EPA take to deal with your development licence application will not include from today until the date you provide a satisfactory response in line with section 50(4) (a) of the Environment Protection Act 2017. EPA has determined the application has not been accompanied by plans, specifications and other information required by the Authority to make a determination and kindly seeks the following:

Noise

The noise modelling undertaken as part of this application has not considered the cumulative noise from other contributing industries as per Environment Protection Regulation 2021 (regulation 119). Please provide updated information (including modelling if applicable) addressing the cumulative noise, including any existing industry emitting noise and future proposed industries.

EPA notes that noise attenuation measures have been proposed. However, there is not sufficient information describing other noise attenuation measures and not sufficient information assessing if the risk of harm has been minimised so far as reasonably practicable. Please provide supporting information addressing those issues.

Esso Australia Pty Ltd provided responses to community questions on 5 May 2022. Question 1 related to infra sound and the response included an assessment of the low frequency noise for the proposal. In reviewing that information and the application, EPA request that the following is provided:

- 1) An assessment of alternative equipment that could be used to minimise the low frequency noise emissions;
- 2) An assessment of any proposed mitigation measures to reduce the risk of low frequency noise; and
- 3) Measurements or other information supporting how the modelled impacts of low frequency noise was undertaken.

Air

EPA understands that under OL000002613, two high pressure flares and one low pressure flare is operated. EPA understands the purpose of the two high pressure flares are to destroy flammable gas released by pressure control valves across the facility. EPA understands that the low-pressure flare is operated to protect the refrigerated storage tanks.

EPA has reviewed the memorandum that was submitted to EPA on 22nd June 2017. The information in that memorandum outlined the methods used to minimise flaring and black smoke from flaring. With

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the changes proposed in the development licence application, EPA request that the following information is provided:

- 1) An assessment for the need for flaring following the construction of the new ethane power generators.
- 2) Information justifying how flaring will be minimised so far as reasonably practicable and describing any outstanding risk of flaring.
- 3) An assessment of any additional controls that can be installed, either as part of the proposed power generation plants or current operation, relating to the outstanding risk of flaring.
- 4) An assessment addressing what constitutes industry Best Available Techniques or Technologies for flaring.

In answering 4, you must review opportunities for improving the system in line with the European Commission's document Best Available Techniques (BAT) Reference Document for the Refining of Mineral Oil and Gas, specifically BAT 55.

Flaring and maintaining smokeless operation of the flare during flaring is a particular concern raised by the community submitters. Please provide information answering the following questions:

- To what extent will the proposal eliminate or minimise the frequency and duration of smoky flare events?
- What is the expected frequency and duration of smoky flare events post the installation of the proposed modifications?
- Under what circumstances will smokeless flaring not be maintained post the installation of the proposed modification?
- Provide justification as to why it is not practicable to eliminate this proposed smoky flare operation.

When addressing parts of this request for information relating to reducing risks so far as is reasonably practicable, EPA request that you address the following:

- (1) How you have eliminate the risks of harm to human health and the environment so far as reasonably practicable.
- (2) If it is not reasonably practicable to eliminate risks of harm to human health and the environment, how you have reduced those risks so far as reasonably practicable.
- (3) The likelihood of risks eventuating.
- (4) The degree of harm that would result if those risks eventuated.
- (5) What the person concerned knows, or ought reasonably to know, about the harm or risks of harm and any ways of eliminating or reducing those risks (your state of knowledge in managing the risk).

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(6) The availability and suitability of ways to eliminate or reduce those risks.

(7) The cost of eliminating or reducing those risks.

EPA requires this information to adequately consider the activities compliance with relevant legislation and policy.

Please feel free to contact me with any additional questions. [REDACTED]

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Senior Permissioning Officer

Permissioning Unit

EPA Victoria