



ENERGYBUILD LTD. ABERPERGWM COLLIERY

PLANNING APPLICATION FOR A NEW COMPRESSOR SHED

OCTOBER 2023



ENERGYBUILD ABERPERGWM COLLIERY
ENGINE COTTAGE SITE
GLYNNEATH
NEATH
NPTCB
SA11 5TY

PLANNING CONSENT P2004/0729

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INTRODUCTION

Energybuild Ltd. is based in the Neath Valley, South Wales. We produce, process, and sell high quality anthracite products which are used mainly as a water filtration medium and for high quality carbon products which are used for the manufacture of carbon electrodes and carbon paste for battery manufacture etc. The mine has been in operation for over 30 years. It currently employs 200 direct employees; this number will expand very shortly with the employment of a further 10 people. Of this number 18 are electrical and mechanical engineering apprentices. We also engage a 10 full time contractors on site. The site benefits from a full planning consent (P2014/0729) and full mining license until 2039.

The Anthracite product is mined from a deep drift mine, the entrance of which is situated on the Aberpergwm Mine site itself. The coal production is by means of a board and pillar mechanized techniques utilizing state of the art mining equipment. We currently produce in excess of 2000 tons of product per week. This figure is again set to increase shortly with the onset of an extensive underground development/expansion program.

Also contained on site is a 400 tons per hour capacity, dense medium Anthracite processing plant which has the sophistication to refine the very specialist grade of products that is required by the specialist markets which we serve. To accompany the processing plant the site holds all the ancillary equipment and services required to pursue the undertaking e.g., product loading facilities, weighbridges, grading, and screening equipment etc. Please refer to Plan Reference **AC/CE/LOC/PLAN 1**

We produce Specialist anthracites for the following markets.

- Water Purification
- Activated Carbon
- Metal Processing and Reduction
- Industrial Colorants
- Carbon Powders
- Carbon Electrodes
- Cement Production

LOCATION AND SITE DESCRIPTION

Energybuild's Aberpergwm Colliery site is located to the South West of the village of Glynneath and to the North of the village of Blaengwrach/Cwmgwrach in the Neath Valley. It is accessed via the B4242 highway which the site is located adjacent to.

The business site is defined by the Planning Consent Boundary (consent number P20014/0729) as granted by Neath Port Talbot Borough Council in October 2018. All ongoing undertakings are carried on within this consented boundary and area. Please refer to Plans Reference, **AC/CE/LOC/PLAN 1 and ACCS/GL/PLAN 2**

Operations carried on at the site consist of the mining of Anthracite mineral from the underground drift mine, processing of the mined product into saleable product and subsequent sale and distribution of the products to various customers.

The backdrop to the site consists of mainly broadleaved woodland and scrub. A haul road passes through the site and winds up the top of the Hirfynydd mountain, which lies to the North of the Aberpergwm site where a waste repository for mine waste is located.

The village of Glynneath lies to the East of the and the village of Cwmgwrach/Blaengwrach lies to the South of the site. The whole site is well screened from the locality by broadleaved woodland area and scrub. The site is also screened internally by the provision of strategically places and planted earth bunds.

The site is fully operational and is currently being upgraded to meet the needs of the expanding enterprise, the construction of the compressor shed is part of this site upgrade

The proposed new compressor shed is totally located within the operational site boundary(P2014/0729) and is in effect totally concealed by other pre-existing site structures, earth bunds and tree/vegetation screening.

ABERPERGWM MINE PLANNING HISTORY

The following table summarises the Planning Permissions granted in respect of Aberpergwm Mine.	
REF	TITLE
P2003/1498	Vary condition 1 of planning permission 2/3/96/0065 extension of time to 30 th September 2013.
P2003/1500	Vary condition 1 of planning permission 2/3/93/0268/03 extension of time to 30 th September 2013.
P2007/1309	Variation of condition 23 of planning application p2003/1500, to extend the hours of working at the Aberpergwm colliery lower surface area
P2007/1422	Construction of a new access drift. Works to include a portal underground tunnel and access from the existing colliery surface to the new drift.
P2008/0414	Retention of extension to existing substation together with a control room & engineers offices.
P2008/0494	The retention of ancillary operations associated with Aberpergwm colliery, these being water treatment facilities and an explosives magazine and the incorporation of the land on which they

	are located into Aberpergwm colliery planning permission.
P2008/1290	Retention and completion of electrical substation
P2009/0429	Extension of underground planning boundary

REF	TITLE
P2010/0498	Mine surface development to provide coal preparation, coal storage, coal handling and sales, welfare and bathing facilities together with car parking, internal haul road, wheel wash and weighbridges, ancillary infrastructure and surface water control, attenuation and pollution prevention measures plus permission to increase the number and capacity of coal haulage vehicles per day and alterations to existing access
P2010/1128	Retrospective application for the retention of a temporary car park with security cabin, boundary fencing, bunds and flood-lighting, plus an un-controlled pedestrian crossing over b4242, temporary footpath and footbridge over the Neath canal for a period of 24 months
11/0481/10	For a temporary period of six months only, the importation of coal from Aberpergwm mine near Glynneath, and the use of the existing coal preparation plant, overland conveyor, the dispatch of coal products by road and rail via the existing railhead and the return of washed mine reject material to Aberpergwm mine by road
P2011/0116	Proposed workshop under condition 13 of planning application P2003/1500
P2011/0708	Retrospective application for the storage of mining equipment, diversion of access track, relocation of an explosives store/security alarm cabin and slope stabilisation work. Planning application for a fan house substation building and cable duct

P2011/0852	Retention and completion of electricity substation with associated access, enclosures and plant
In September 2013, a number of Section 73 Applications were submitted to Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council to extend the life of Aberpergwm Colliery for a further five years (until 2018). A summary of the applications submitted is provided below.	
REF	TITLE
P2013/875	Vary condition 1 (time limits) of planning permission p2003/1498 - extension of time until 30th September 2013
P2013/876	Vary condition 1 (time limits) of planning permission p2003/1500 - extension of time until 30th September 2013
P2013/877	Vary condition 1 (time limits) of planning permission p2007/1422 - extension of time until 30th September 2013
P2013/878	Vary condition 1 (time limits) of planning permission p2008/0494 - extension of time until 30th September 2013
P2013/879	Vary condition 1 (time limits) of planning permission p2009/0429 - extension of time until 30th September 2013
P2013/880	Vary condition 1 (time limits) of planning permission p2011/0708 - extension of time until 30th September 2013
P2013/881	Vary condition 1 (time limits) of planning permission p2012/0995 - extension of time until 30th September 2013
P2014/0729	Application for an extension to and reconfiguration of the underground coal workings; Creation of a mine waste repository with the retention and improvement of the associated haul road (to dispose of mine waste and discard from coal preparation at the mine) and the delivery of further peat habitat mitigation works; Mine Surface development, including - regularisation and time extension of existing minerelated operations and mine surface development, consolidation of existing planning permissions and planning controls, construction of infrastructure/buildings, formation of materials storage and stocking areas, drainage works, and landscaping. (Further information received 10 July 2018)

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THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Energybuild propose to construct a new compressor shed. The compressor shed will be located on previously prepared but unutilised ground and replace an already existing structure in the near vicinity which has become dilapidated and unsuitable for its intended purpose. The new building will be constructed in the same pattern and appearance as all other structures on site. The building itself is of a steel framed construction to B.S.5950 – industrial Specification. The building details are shown in the table below and **on Plan REF. AC/CS/BD/PLAN 3.**

PROPOSED NEW COMPRESSOR SHED					
HEIGHT M		WIDTH M		LENGTH M	
FLOOR AREA M²					
STANCHIONS		180mm x 100mm x 19KG/M			
RAFTERS		180mm x 100mm x 19KG/M			
CLADDING		0.7 mm 1000/32PLASTIC COATED BOX PROFILE			
CLADDING COLOUR		JUNIPER GREEN			
FOUNDATION DETAIL	BUILDING CONSTRUCTED ON PRE-EXISTING AND REENFORCED CON- CRETE BASE.				

Due in the main to the planned expansion of the underground mining operation, the installation of new and sophisticated mining machinery, a more sophisticated and reliable compressor is required to meet the extra demand.

The building will be constructed on a pre-existing concrete base which was previously designed for the purpose. This will obviate the need for any excavation works.

The building will be manufactured on site by skilled craftsmen which will obviate the need for external transportation. It is scheduled that the total erection including the provision of external cladding will take no longer than seven days.

CONSIDERATION OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS

NOISE

The planned construction period for the building is relatively brief at a maximum of seven days and will be carried out between the hours of 08:00 and 15:00. The building foundation has already been constructed as a part of a previous development and will not include any excavation works or the use of heavy machinery. Consequently, it is considered that noise generated during construction will not present any adverse impact on the local communities or site adjacent environs.

The new compressor building will feature noise attenuating sheets and be screened by existing trees which will aid in the mitigation of and noise generated during its operation.

The site operates a comprehensive noise management policy which allows for the proactive investigation and the instigation of corrective measures in relation of any potential nuisance noise source.

DUST

The Company operates a comprehensive dust suppression policy and is constantly vigilant in its observations of changing weather conditions and site operations. The site is also equipped with a sophisticated dust suppression system, the use of water bowsers is also available to supplement this should the need arise.

The generation of dust or other form of emission is not considered to present a problem during the construction phase of operational phase of the development due in the main to its brevity and the lack of requirement for any heavy excavation works . Weather conditions and emissions are observed daily and recorded in a book provided for the purpose. Any complaints that may arise will also be recorded in the book.

VISIBILITY

The building itself is obscured from any viewpoints external to the site by other structures and a tree screen. It is not visible from any footpath, bridleway or highway.

LIGHTING

It is not proposed to provide any lighting sources which are external to the building.

ECOLOGY

The proposed shed erecting site has already been prepared in relation to groundworks by virtue of past activities. The area is currently unutilised but regularly accessed by vehicles and inspected. cursory checks have indicated no adverse impacts to ecology by virtue of construction and operation of the compressor shed.

DRAINAGE

No foul water drainage is associated with this development.

Clean rain water falling on the building will be directed to the neighbouring stream.

TRANSPORT

No external transport facilities are required.

CONCLUSION

Energybuild proposes to construct a new compressor shed. The new building will replace an existing and dilapidated on site construction. The dimensions are shown in the preceding paragraphs and on **Plan Ref. AC/CS/BD/PLAN 3**

The new compressor shed is not a large construction it will be in the character and outward appearance of the existing comparable site structures.

The construction phase will take no longer than seven days, this will be facilitated by the previous construction of ground works and foundations.

The building is not considered intrusive to the public in any way. It is well screened, not visible from any footpath or bridleway. The structure will provide a more suitable housing for the compressor and associated equipment. It will be fully enclosed within the outer enclosure which will be fitted with noise attenuating outer sheets. The new installation will contribute to providing a cleaner, more environmentally acceptable and safer working environment.

INCLUSIONS

PLAN REF. AC/CS/LOC/PLAN 2

PLAN REF. AC/CS/GL/PLAN 2

PLAN REF. AC/CS/BD/ PLAN3