

Woodlawn Advanced Energy Recovery Centre

*Frequently asked questions about the proposed
project amendment*



What is a project amendment?

An applicant can request to amend or adjust an application at any time before determining if they will change the project's description from that provided in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Amendments can be made to improve the project's design, respond to issues raised by the community in public submissions, or further mitigate potential impacts of the project.

What is an Amendment Report?

An Amendment Report assesses the economic, environmental, and social impacts of the amended project to help the community, councils, government agencies, and the consenting authority gain a better understanding of the proposed amendment(s) and its impacts, and to support them in making informed decisions on the merits of the project.

The Department of Planning, Housing & Infrastructure (DPHI) has guidelines for preparing an Amendment Report which can be found on their website, [accessible here](#).

Will this amendment be exhibited?

DPHI will decide whether the changes set out in the Amendment Report warrant public exhibition. The Amendment Report will be published on [DPHI's website](#). Veolia expects that a public exhibition process is likely and is committed to fully and transparently explaining all aspects of the amendment to the community.

Will this amendment change the timeframe of the approval process?

Yes, the proposed amendment will extend the project's approval process. As noted above, a public exhibition is likely, in which case DPHI will ask Veolia to respond to submissions made on the Amendment Report. After this, DPHI will prepare their assessment report which will be forwarded to the Independent Planning Commission who will make a decision on the development application for the project.

When will the amendment report be ready?

We're hard at work finalising the amendment report and we aim to share it with the community around November 2024, so stay tuned for updates on our progress. Our [webpage](#) is the go-to source for all the latest information regarding the amendment report and our project progress, or you can [subscribe to our mailing list](#) to receive updates directly.

What is Veolia's amendment to the ARC Project?

The following amendments are proposed:

- Removal of the previously proposed Encapsulation Cell from the project;
- Changes to the stabilisation process used to treat the APCr;
- Relocation of the APCr stabilisation area, which will now be adjacent to the main energy-from-waste building; and
- A contingency will also be included in the Amendment Report which provides for the transport of the stabilised APCr to an off-site facility for disposal. This will accommodate disposal of the stabilised APCr should it not meet the standards required for disposal at the Woodlawn Bioreactor landfill.

What is APCr?

Air pollution control residues (APCr) is a by-product captured by air pollution control systems from energy recovery facilities, more commonly referred to as "fly ash". Typically, it includes a mixture of ash, carbon, and lime.

How has the treatment of APCr changed to make it safe for landfill disposal?

The ARC facility's core operations and flue gas treatment remain unchanged. The only change is to the management of the residual material that is captured by the filtration system (APCr). Instead of using Portland cement to stabilise APCr and disposing of it in an on-site encapsulation cell, Veolia now proposes to treat APCr using new methods that will reduce its classification from 'Hazardous' to 'General Solid Waste' classification, in accordance with the EPA's Waste Classification Guidelines. This will allow for disposal in the existing Woodlawn Bioreactor Landfill.

During the stabilisation process, a chemical reaction occurs in the material which immobilises it. All batches of stabilised APCr will be tested to determine they meet the General Solid Waste classification prior to disposal into the Woodlawn Bioreactor Landfill.

How is Veolia addressing risks?

The stabilisation process has been safely in operation at a number of facilities globally.

All potential risks identified (however unlikely) are addressed in the Risk Assessment process and recommendations to either:

- **Eliminate** the risk by removing the hazard
- **Substitute** the hazard with something less dangerous
- **Redesign** the process to something safer
- **Isolate** the hazard from people
- **Manage** the risk by the use of policies, practices, rules, signage and training
- **Protect** people by the mandated use of PPE

Will the APCr need to be transported off-site after it has been processed?

As a backup option, Veolia is seeking approval for off-site transport of the stabilised APCr to another appropriately licenced waste management facility. This would only occur during periods of maintenance of the stabilisation area process and in instances if a batch cannot be stabilised to a General Solid Waste classification.

What happens if the APCr doesn't meet the General Solid Waste classification?

In rare instances where a batch doesn't meet the EPA's General Solid Waste classification, it would still be treated to a level called 'Restricted Solid Waste'. It will then be transported to an appropriately licensed restricted solid waste disposal facility. We propose to use sealed trucks for transport, following well-regulated practices commonly used across the state for the management of this kind of material.

How will the APCr be prevented from entering the environment?

Only APCr that has been stabilised to General Solid Waste classification will be placed into the landfill. This stabilisation chemically alters the APCr, making it non-hazardous. During this process, contaminants are securely locked within the transformed material.

How will the proposed project amendment improve the long-term management of water at the Eco Precinct?

The proposed project amendment will improve long-term water management at the Eco Precinct by retaining the full capacity of the evaporation dam for operational water management, rather than using it for the APCr encapsulation cell. This helps the site to adapt to recent heavy rainfall patterns and changing environmental conditions while addressing community feedback about onsite water management concerns.