



Licence number	L8978/2016/1	
Licence holder	Big Bell Gold Operations Pty Ltd	
ACN	090 642 809	
Registered business address	Level 6, 197 St Georges Terrace, Parliament Place PERTH WA 6000	
DWER file number	DER2016/000908-1	
Duration	05/09/2016 to	04/09/2036
Date of issue	01/09/2016	
Date of amendment	15/08/2023	
Premises details	Comet Project CUE WA 6640 Mining Tenements M21/08, M21/72, L21/16 As depicted in Schedule 1	

Prescribed premises category description (Schedule 1, <i>Environmental Protection Regulations 1987</i>)	Assessed production / design capacity
Category 6: Mine dewatering	1,000,000 tonnes per annual period

This licence is granted to the Licence Holder, subject to the attached conditions, on 15 August 2023 by:

A/SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER, INDUSTRY REGULATION

an officer delegated under section 20 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (WA)

Licence history

Instrument	Issued	Description
L8978/2016/1	25/08/2016	New Licence
L8978/2016/1	13/06/2022	Update to format of the licence. Eclipse pit added as a discharge point. Addition of mining tenement L21/16. Construction of dewatering pipeline on L21/16
L8978/2016/1	15/08/2023	Increase in the category 6 capacity from 500,000 to 1,000,000 tonnes per annual period

Interpretation

In this licence:

- (a) the words ‘including’, ‘includes’ and ‘include’ in conditions mean “including but not limited to”, and similar, as appropriate;
- (b) where any word or phrase is given a defined meaning, any other part of speech or other grammatical form of that word or phrase has a corresponding meaning;
- (c) where tables are used in a condition, each row in a table constitutes a separate condition;
- (d) any reference to an Australian or other standard, guideline, or code of practice in this licence:
 - (i) if dated, refers to that particular version; and
 - (ii) if not dated, refers to the latest version and therefore may be subject to change over time;
- (e) unless specified otherwise, any reference to a section of an Act refers to that section of the EP Act; and
- (f) unless specified otherwise, all definitions are in accordance with the EP Act.

NOTE: This licence requires specific conditions to be met but does not provide any implied authorisation for other emissions, discharges, or activities not specified in this licence.

Licence conditions

The Licence Holder must ensure that the following conditions are complied with:

General conditions

Premise operation

1. The Licence Holder must record and investigate the exceedance of any descriptive or numerical limit in this section.
2. The Licence Holder must ensure that any dewatering effluent shall only be used for dust suppression in a manner that minimises damage to surrounding vegetation.
3. The Licence Holder must ensure that dewatering effluent is discharged into dams with the relevant infrastructure requirements and at the location specified in Table 1 and identified in Schedule 1.

Table 1: Containment infrastructure

Containment point reference	Material	Infrastructure requirements
Venus pit	Dewatering effluent	Maintain a minimum freeboard of 3 metres
Eclipse pit	Dewatering effluent	Maintain a minimum freeboard of 4 metres

4. The Licence Holder must ensure that all dewatering pipelines are either:
 - (a) equipped with telemetry systems and pressure sensors along pipelines to allow the detection of leaks and failures;
 - (b) equipped with automatic cut-outs in the event of a pipe failure; or
 - (c) provided with secondary containment sufficient to contain any spill for a period equal to the time between routine inspections.
5. The Licence Holder must:
 - (a) undertake inspections as detailed in Table 2;
 - (b) where any inspection identifies that an appropriate level of environmental protection is not being maintained, take corrective action to mitigate adverse environmental consequences as soon as practicable; and
 - (c) maintain a record of all inspections undertaken.

Table 2: Inspection of infrastructure

Scope of inspection	Type of inspection	Frequency of inspection
Dewatering effluent pipelines	Visual integrity	Daily
Freeboard at the Venus pit	Visual to confirm required freeboard capacity is available	Daily
Freeboard at the Eclipse pit	Visual to confirm required freeboard capacity is available	Daily

6. The Licence Holder must install and undertake the works for the infrastructure and equipment:
- (a) specified in column 1; and
 - (b) to the requirements specified in column 2
- of Table 3 below.

Table 3: Construction requirements

Column 1: Infrastructure/equipment	Column 2: Requirements (design and construction)
Dewatering pipelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Constructed according to Australian Standards AS/NZS 2033, 4129, 4130 and 4131 for polyethylene pipes; (b) Tested prior to operation: hydro-testing, calibration of flow meters and pressure transmitters; <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (c) equipped with telemetry systems and pressure sensors along pipelines to allow the detection of leaks and failures; or (d) equipped with automatic cut-outs in the event of a pipe failure; or (e) provided with secondary containment sufficient to contain any spill for a period equal to the time between routine inspections.

7. The Licence Holder must within 30 days of each item of infrastructure required by condition 6 being constructed:
- (a) undertake an audit of their compliance with the requirements of condition 6; and
 - (b) prepare and submit to the CEO an audit report on that compliance.
8. The Licence Holder must manage dust generation from mobile equipment movements during dewatering pipeline constructions by:
- (a) limiting activities to minimise dust generation on cleared areas where possible; and
 - (b) wetting down unsealed roads and exposed areas with a water truck as required to minimise dust emissions.

Emissions and discharges

General

9. The Licence Holder must record and investigate the exceedance of any descriptive or numerical limit in this section.

Discharges to groundwater

10. The Licence Holder must ensure that where waste is emitted to groundwater from the emission point in Table 4, and identified on the map of emission points in Schedule 1, it is done so in accordance with the conditions of this Licence.

Table 4: Emission points to groundwater

Emission point reference	Description	Source including abatement
Venus pit	Dewatering waste water discharge into a disused mine pit.	Water from dewatering of the Comet, Comet North, Eclipse and Pinnacles pits
Eclipse pit	Dewatering waste water discharged into mine pit	Water from dewatering of the Comet, Comet North and Venus pits

11. The Licence Holder must not cause or allow point source emissions to groundwater greater than the limits listed in Table 5.

Table 5: Point source emission limits to groundwater

Emission point reference	Parameter	Limit (including units)	Averaging period
Venus and Eclipse pit discharge	Volume of dewatering effluent water	1,000,000 tonnes	Annual period
	Total recoverable hydrocarbons	15 mg/L	Spot sample

Monitoring

General monitoring

12. The Licence Holder must ensure that:
- (a) all water samples are collected and preserved in accordance with AS/NZS 5667.1;
 - (b) all wastewater sampling is conducted in accordance with AS/NZS 5667.10; and
 - (c) all laboratory samples are submitted to and tested by a laboratory with current NATA accreditation for the parameters being measured unless indicated otherwise in the relevant table.
13. The Licence Holder must ensure that:
- (a) quarterly monitoring is undertaken at least 45 days apart; and
 - (b) annual monitoring is undertaken at least 9 months apart.
14. The Licence Holder must ensure that all monitoring equipment used on the Premises to comply with the conditions of this Licence is calibrated in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications and the requirements of the Licence.
15. The Licence Holder must, where the requirements for calibration cannot be practicably met, or a discrepancy exists in the interpretation of the requirements, bring these issues to the attention of the CEO accompanied with a report comprising details of any modifications to the methods.

Discharge quality monitoring to groundwater

- 16.** The Licence Holder must undertake the monitoring in Table 6 according to the specifications in that table.

Table 6: Monitoring of point source emissions to groundwater

Emission point reference	Parameter	Units	Limit	Averaging Period	Frequency
Dewatering discharge outlet into the Venus pit and Eclipse pit	Volumetric flow rate	m ³	None specified	Monthly	Continuous
	Arsenic; Cadmium; Chromium; Copper; Manganese; Mercury; Molybdenum; Nickel; Total Nitrogen; and Zinc	mg/L		Spot sample	Annually
	Standing water level in pit	mbgl	As per freeboard in condition 3		Quarterly
	Total recoverable hydrocarbons	mg/L	15		
	Total dissolved solids		None specified		
	pH ¹	-			

Note 1: In-field non-NATA accredited analysis permitted.

Records and reporting

- 17.** The Licence Holder must record the following information in relation to complaints received by the licence holder (whether received directly from a complainant or forwarded to them by the Department or another party) about any alleged emissions from the premises:
- (a) the name and contact details of the complainant, (if provided);
 - (b) the time and date of the complaint;
 - (c) the complete details of the complaint and any other concerns or other issues raised; and
 - (d) the complete details and dates of any action taken by the licence holder to investigate or respond to any complaint.
- 18.** The Licence Holder must:
- (a) undertake an audit of their compliance with the conditions of this licence during the preceding annual period; and
 - (b) prepare and submit to the CEO by no later than 90 days after the end of that annual period an Annual Audit Compliance Report in the approved form.

19. The Licence Holder must submit to the CEO an Environmental Report by the 26 November 2023 and biennially thereafter. The report shall provide information in accordance with the corresponding requirement set out in Table 7.

Table 7: Environmental Report

Condition or table (if relevant)	Requirement
-	Summary of any failure or malfunction of any pollution control equipment and any environmental incidents that have occurred during the annual period and any action taken
16 Table 6	Monitoring of point source emissions to groundwater
17	Complaints summary

20. The Licence Holder must maintain accurate and auditable books including the following records, information, reports, and data required by this licence:
- (a) the calculation of fees payable in respect of this licence;
 - (b) the works conducted in accordance with condition 6 of this licence;
 - (c) any maintenance of infrastructure that is performed in the course of complying with conditions of this licence;
 - (d) monitoring programmes undertaken in accordance with condition 16 of this licence; and
 - (e) complaints received under condition 17 of this licence.
21. The books specified under condition 20 must:
- (a) be legible;
 - (b) if amended, be amended in such a way that the original version(s) and any subsequent amendments remain legible and are capable of retrieval;
 - (c) be retained by the Licence Holder for the duration of the licence; and
 - (d) be available to be produced to an inspector or the CEO as required.
22. The Licence Holder must ensure that the parameters listed in Table 8 are notified to the CEO in accordance with the notification requirements of the table.

Table 8: Notification requirements

Condition or table (if relevant)	Parameter	Notification requirement ¹	Format or form ²
-	Breach of any limit specified in the Licence	Part A: As soon as practicable but no later than 5pm of the next usual working day. Part B: As soon as practicable.	N1

Note 1: Notification requirements in the Licence shall not negate the requirement to comply with s72 of the Act

Note 2: Forms are in Schedule 2

Definitions

In this licence, the terms in Table 9 have the meaning defined.

Table 9: Definitions

Term	Definition
ACN	Australian Company Number.
Annual Audit Compliance Report	means a report submitted in a format approved by the CEO (relevant guidelines and templates may be available on the Department's website).
annual period	means a 12 month period commencing from 29 August until 28 August in the immediately following year.
AS/NZS 2033	means the Australian Standard AS/NZS 2033 <i>Installation of polyethylene pipe systems</i> .
AS/NZS 4129	means the Australian Standard AS/NZS 4129 <i>Fittings for polyethylene (PE) pipes for pressure applications</i> .
AS/NZS 4130	means the Australian Standard AS/NZS 4130 <i>Polyethylene pipes for pressure applications</i> .
AS/NZS 4131	means the Australian Standard AS/NZS 4130 <i>Polyethylene compounds for pressure pipes and fittings</i> .
AS/NZS 5667.1	means the Australian Standard AS/NZS 5667.1 <i>Water Quality – Sampling – Guidance of the Design of sampling programs, sampling techniques and the preservation and handling of samples</i> .
AS/NZS 5667.10	means the Australian Standard AS/NZS 5667.10 <i>Water Quality – Sampling – Guidance on sampling of waste waters</i> .
books	has the same meaning given to that term under the EP Act.
CEO	means Chief Executive Officer of the Department. “submit to / notify the CEO” (or similar), means either: Director General Department administering the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> Locked Bag 10 Joondalup DC WA 6919 or: info@dwer.wa.gov.au
Department	means the department established under section 35 of the <i>Public Sector Management Act 1994</i> (WA) and designated as responsible for the administration of the EP Act, which includes Part V Division 3.
discharge	has the same meaning given to that term under the EP Act.
emission	has the same meaning given to that term under the EP Act.
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> (WA).

Term	Definition
freeboard	means the distance between the maximum water surface elevations and the top of retaining banks or structures at their lowest point.
licence	refers to this document, which evidences the grant of a licence by the CEO under section 57 of the EP Act, subject to the specified conditions contained within.
Licence Holder	refers to the occupier of the premises, being the person specified on the front of the licence as the person to whom this licence has been granted.
m ³	means cubic metres.
mbgl	means metres below ground level.
NATA	means the National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia.
NATA accredited	means in relation to the analysis of a sample that the laboratory is NATA accredited for the specified analysis at the time of the analysis.
Premises	refers to the premises to which this licence applies, as specified at the front of this licence and as shown on the premises map (Figure 1) in Schedule 1 to this licence.
prescribed premises	has the same meaning given to that term under the EP Act.
Schedule 1	means Schedule 1 of this Licence unless otherwise stated.
Schedule 2	means Schedule 2 of this Licence unless otherwise stated.
Usual working day	means 0800 – 1700 hours, Monday to Friday excluding public holidays in Western Australia.

Schedule 1: Maps
Premises map

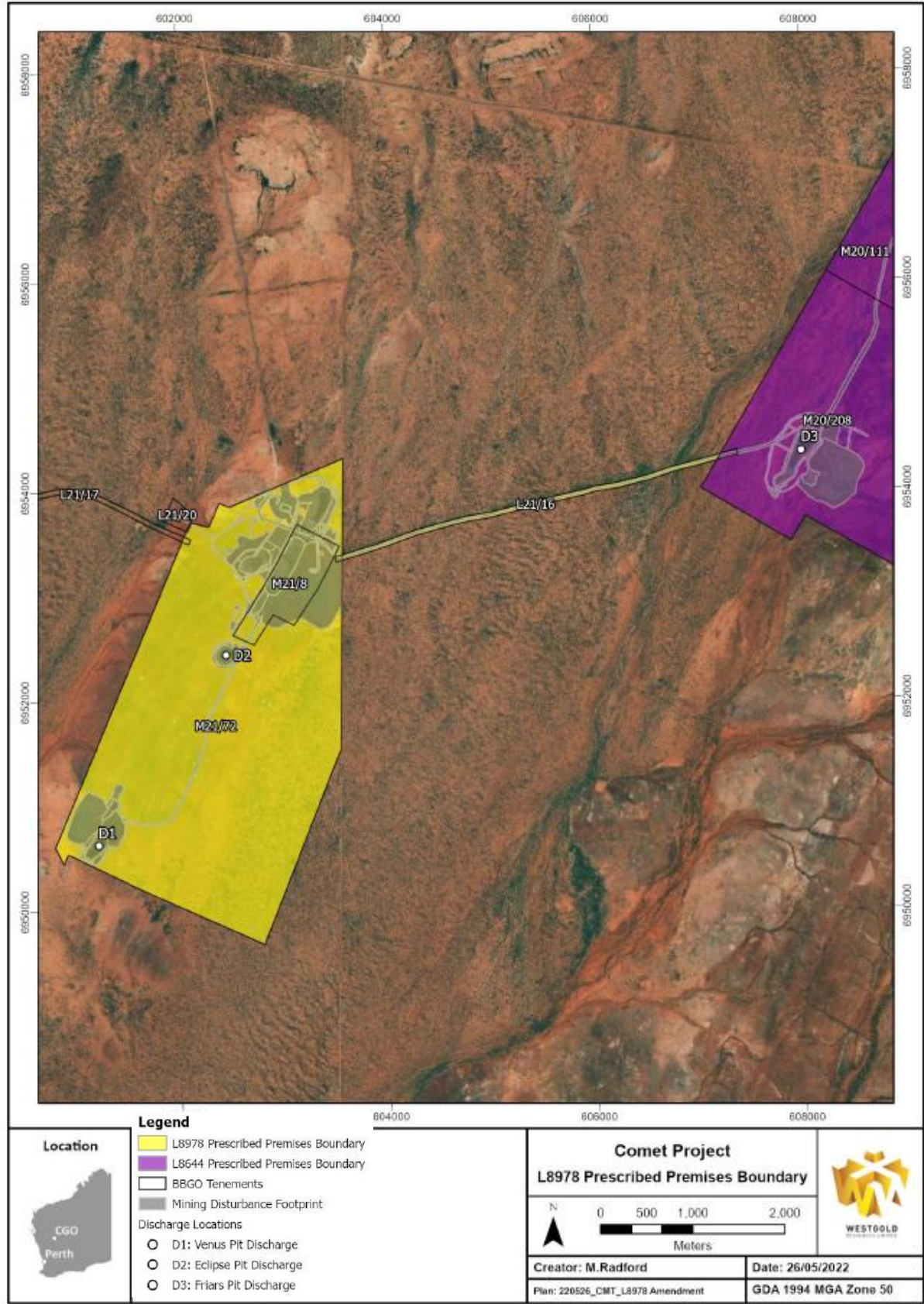


Figure 1: Prescribed premises

Map of Emission Points

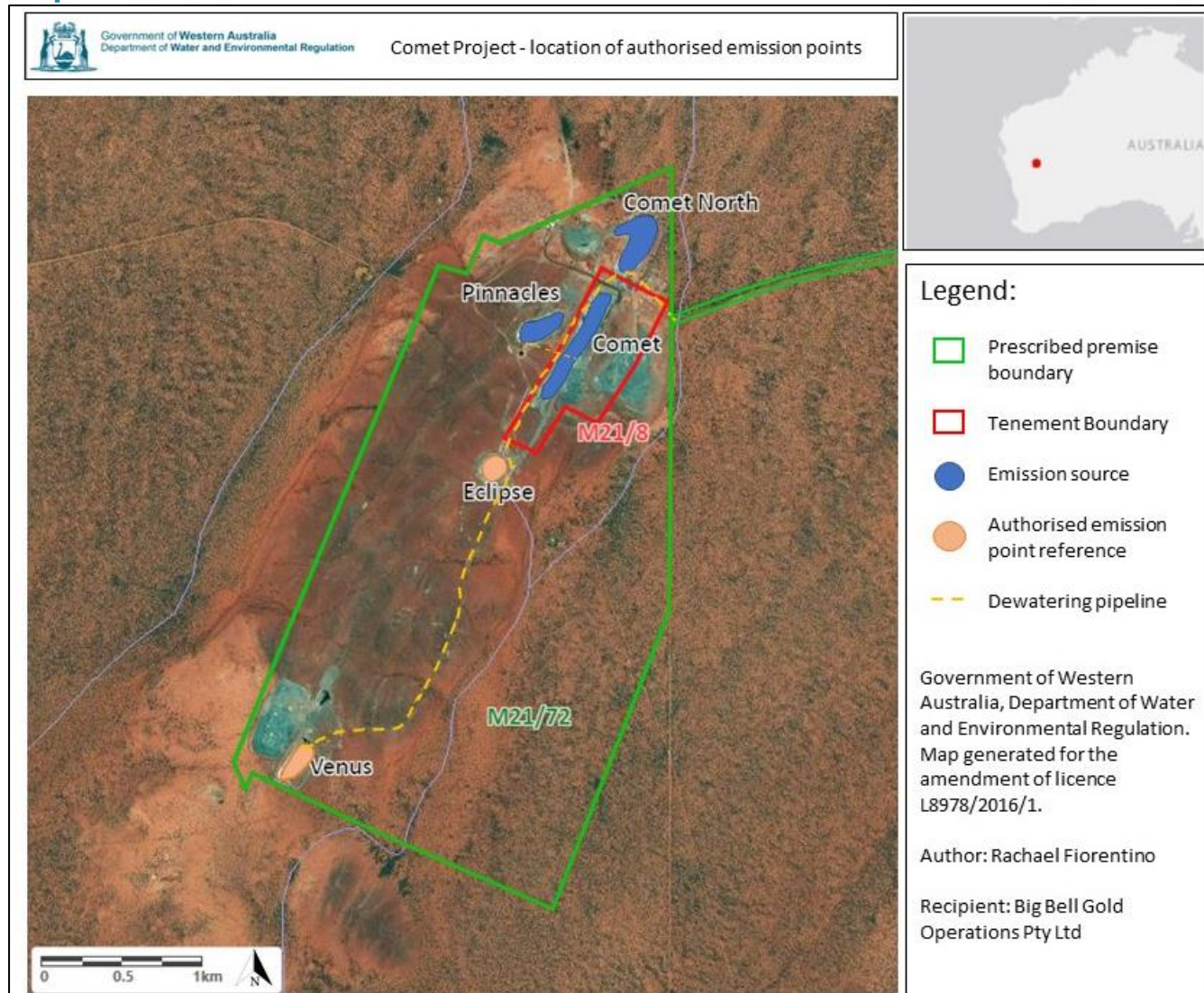


Figure 2: Location of authorised emission points under condition 10 (Venus and Eclipse)

Schedule 2: Reporting & notification forms

Licence:

Licence Holder:

Form: N1

Date of breach:

Notification of detection of the breach of a limit.

These pages outline the information that the operator must provide.

Units of measurement used in information supplied under Part A and B requirements shall be appropriate to the circumstances of the emission. Where appropriate, a comparison should be made of actual emissions and authorised emission limits.

Part A

Licence number	
Name of operator	
Location of premises	
Time and date of the detection	

Notification requirements for the breach of a limit	
Emission point reference/source	
Parameter(s)	
Limit	
Measured value	
Date and time of monitoring	
Measures taken, or intended to be taken, to stop the emission	

Part B

Any more accurate information on the matters for notification under Part A.	
Measures taken, or intended to be taken, to prevent a recurrence of the incident.	
Measures taken, or intended to be taken, to rectify, limit or prevent any pollution of the environment which has been or may be caused by the emission.	
The dates of any previous N1 notifications for the Premises in the preceding 24 months.	

Name	
Post	
Signature on behalf of Licence Holder	
Date	