



An
Bord
Pleanála

Board Direction
BD-018662-25
ABP-318864-24

The submissions on this file and the Inspector's report were considered at a Board meeting held on 16/01/2025.

The Board decided this referral in accordance with the Inspector's recommendation and the following draft order.

WHEREAS a question has arisen as to whether the installation of a 7-hectare sub-surface irrigation system to facilitate the dispersal of treated effluent from the existing on-site wastewater treatment plant at Dawn Meats (Slane) at Greenhills, Beauparc, Co. Meath, is or is not development and is or is not exempted development.

AND WHEREAS Dawn Meats (Slane) requested a declaration on this question from Meath County Council on the 15th December 2023

AND WHEREAS Meath County Council did not issue a declaration. The Board received this Section 5 Referral from Meath County Council on the 12th day of January 2024.

AND WHEREAS An Bord Pleanála, in considering this referral, had regard particularly to:

- (a) Section 2(1), 3(1), and 4(1)(h) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended,

- (b) Articles 6 and 9 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended,
- (c) the current activities that are undertaken on the site, which are subject to an Industrial Emissions Licence from the EPA (Ref. P0811-02), and
- (d) the planning history of the site.

AND WHEREAS An Bord Pleanála has concluded that:

- (a) The works, which comprise the installation of a 7 hectare sub-surface irrigation system to facilitate the dispersal of treated effluent from the existing on-site wastewater treatment plant constitute works under land and a material change to the existing treatment of wastewater within the site and, therefore, come within the scope of Section 3(1) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended and, therefore, is development.
- (b) The provision of a sub-surface irrigation system to facilitate the dispersal of treated effluent from the existing on-site wastewater treatment plant serving the facility at Dawn Meats (Slane), which is controlled by IE licence P0811-02 does not comprise the maintenance, improvements or other alteration of any structure and therefore, does not fall under the exemptions provided under Section 4(1)(h) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, are not applicable.
- (c) There are no other provisions, in the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, or in the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended, whereby this development would be classified as exempted development, and this development is, therefore, not exempted development

NOW THEREFORE An Bord Pleanála, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by section 5 (3) (a) of the 2000 Act, hereby decides that the installation of a 7 hectare sub-surface irrigation system to facilitate the dispersal of

reated effluent from the existing on-site wastewater treatment plant at Dawn Meats (Slane) at Greenhills, Beauparc, Co. Meath is development and is not exempted development.

Board Member

Eamonn James Kelly
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Date: 16/01/2025

Note

The Board noted the Inspector's observations regarding the requirement for an environmental impact assessment. However, as the Board considered there was no provision in the Planning and Development Act or in the Planning and Development Regulations that would exempt this proposed development, the Board decided not to pursue this issue further at this time.