



An
Bord
Pleanála

Recording of Meeting 29S.PC0203 5th meeting

Case Reference / Description	29S.PC0203 Expansion and upgrading of the existing Ringsend Waste Water Treatment Plant, Dublin.		
Case Type	Pre-application consultation		
1st / 2nd / 3rd Meeting	5 th		
Date	15/12/16	Start Time	11 a.m.
Location	Conference Room	End Time	12.10 p.m.
Chairperson	Anne Marie O'Connor	Executive Officer	Kieran Somers

Attendees		
Representing An Bord Pleanála		
Staff Member	Email Address	Phone
Anne Marie O'Connor, Assistant Director of Planning		
Paul Caprani, Senior Planning Inspector		
Diarmuid Collins, Senior Administrative Officer		
Kieran Somers, Executive Officer	k.somers@pleanala.ie	01-8737107

Representing the Prospective Applicant		
Donal O'Connor, Irish Water		
Kieran Kennedy, RPS Planning and Environment		
Niall Riordan, Irish Water		
Olwyn James, Irish Water		
Ciaran O' Keeffe, Jacobs Tobin Designers		
Stephen Little, Stephen Little and Associates		
Michael Hand, JB Barry Designers		
Emma El Sahn, Irish Water		
Alison Fanagan, A & L Goodbody		

The meeting commenced at 11 a.m.

The Board referred to its previous meeting with the prospective applicant held on the 22nd July, 2016 and the record of same. The Board asked the prospective applicant if it had any comments it wished to make on this. The prospective applicant replied that it had no comments to make on this record.

Presentation by the prospective applicant:

The prospective applicant provided the Board with an update of the project since the time of the previous meeting. An overview of the overall waste water treatment plant site was first presented. With respect to the progress of the project itself, the prospective applicant said that the present intention is to lodge the formal planning application circa Quarter 4 2017. It envisages that construction would commence sometime during the fourth quarter of 2018, subject to planning permission having been obtained.

The prospective applicant stated that certain upgrade works to the existing WWTP, approved under the extant permission, are required to achieve compliance with the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive and capacity requirements generally. It is intended that these works, including upgrading of the existing SBR (Sequencing

Batch Reactors) would be commenced under the extant permission, but would also form part of the future application. A capacity upgrade contract is out for tender since August of this year, with a return date of the 11th January, 2017. Construction is then expected to commence in the third quarter of 2017. A further tender process for the upgrade works is intended to be commenced in the third quarter of 2017.

The prospective applicant also stated that it intends to seek alterations to the extant permission under section 146B of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, as one of the three permitted compound locations is no longer available. A section 146B application to the Board for a new compound and access arrangements is envisaged for February or March 2017. The existing and proposed compounds were set out by the prospective applicant in the presentation. In respect of the proposed construction compound to be located at site location F, the prospective applicant pointed out that a temporary access road being considered from the waste water treatment plant site to this compound would traverse a Special Protection Area (SPA), requiring screening for AA. The prospective applicant added that this particular option for temporary access would only be included if it feels that it can make a robust case. Noting this, the Board pointed out to the prospective applicant that including such an option in the 146B application would be likely to require a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) and could, potentially, trigger the 146C legislative mechanism.

The prospective applicant then addressed the proposal for a new regional bio-solids storage facility. The facility would provide storage of Class A sludge produced in the waste water treatment process, prior to land spreading at the appropriate times of year/weather conditions. It is intended that the facility would serve both the Ringsend WWTP and the Greater Dublin Drainage Project (currently also at pre-application consultation stage under case reference number PC0152), as well as other waste water treatment plants in the Greater Dublin Area. A site selection process for the facility is ongoing and a specific location was not referred to in the discussions. An indicative site layout plan for a facility of this nature was provided, as well as proposed elevations as to what the facility might look like.

The prospective applicant proceeded to advise of the Board of the various options it has considered with respect to applying for planning permission for this particular development. It said that it has considered the option of a stand-alone application for the facility, but is concerned that it may be perceived as project-splitting. The preferred approach would be to include the facility in both planning applications (i.e. Ringsend and the Greater Dublin Drainage Project) to avoid the perception of project-splitting, and in case either of the applications was refused. The Board said that the EIS accompanying each application should robustly and consistently address the cumulative impacts associated with the other project. The Board also advised that indirect effects of the storage facility, such as the disposal of the sludge should also be considered in the EIS.

The prospective applicant envisages that both applications will be lodged at approximately the same time, although the Ringsend application would more than likely be the first. The Board noted this and said that it would have to consider its own timelines and operational matters such as the holding of oral hearings.

The prospective applicant set out the next steps in the process for the bio-solids storage facility prior to an application being lodged, including the site selection

process and public consultation. The criteria for the site selection will include factors such as proximity, access to road networks, number and proximity of sensitive receptors, site availability, costs and environmental impacts. As part of its initial assessment in this regard, the prospective applicant has identified some potential main impacts including traffic, odour, visual impact and effects on surface water. Consideration will also be given to the Eastern-Midlands Region Waste Management Plan and its site selection guidelines for waste facilities which are currently at draft stage. It is expected that a preferred site will be selected by May 2017, and will be the subject of EIS and NIS scoping.

The Board advised the prospective applicant that it should consider issues such as potential impacts on residential areas arising from haul routes. It also advised the prospective applicant to liaise with the drainage department of the planning authority once a site has been selected. With respect to this latter point, the prospective applicant said that there will be no flow into any public system. It clarified to the Board that the material is solid and dry and that there is no run-off, residue or leachate arising from it. Responding to the Board's query, the prospective applicant said that all types of sludge are covered under the regulatory regime of the nutrient management plans.

Conclusion:

The prospective applicant said that baseline studies and consultations are generally progressing in relation to the WWTP, and that the results of the pilot at the plant using the proposed treatment technology (AGS) continued to yield good results in terms of the standard of treatment. It also said that further consultations are to take place with representatives from the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). The aforementioned temporary access to facilitate the construction compound has also been discussed with the NPWS.

It was agreed at the conclusion of the instant meeting that the prospective applicant will request a further meeting with the Board circa February 2017, following conclusion of its Stage 1 consultations.

The meeting concluded at 12.10 p.m.

Anne Marie O'Connor
Assistant Director of Planning