



An
Bord
Pleanála

Record of Meeting 29S.PC0203 7th 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	7 th		
Date	02/06/17	Start Time	11 a.m.
Location	Meeting Room 3	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		
Alison Flanagan, A&L Goodbody		
Jean Hobbs, Irish Water		
Stephen Little, Stephen Little and Associates		
Michael Hand, JB Barry Designers		

The meeting commenced at 11 a.m.

Noting that this was the seventh meeting so far in this particular pre-application consultation process, the Board referred to its previous meeting with the prospective applicant held on the 15th March, 2017 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 set out the purpose of the instant meeting which was to discuss proposed works to be included in the formal planning application to the Board and their timing relative to the approval under case reference number 29N.YA0010, the extent of scope of the environmental impact assessment report (EIAR/ formerly the EIS) and NIS for the project, an update on other elements of the project and an update on consultations and the site selection process in relation to the proposed Biosolids Storage Facility.

The prospective applicant recapped on the need for the proposed development having regard to wastewater treatment capacity for the Dublin region and also the need to comply with the EU Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive and national standards. An overview of the existing Ringsend plant was also provided and the prospective applicant outlined where the proposed upgrade will occur on site.

The prospective applicant also recapped on the main elements of the approval under case reference number 29N.YA0010; these included immediate upgrades, extension to the existing wastewater treatment plant, an extension of the effluent outfall tunnel and road improvements.

The prospective applicant noted for the record that the proposed revised upgrade project involves no change in approved capacity and no change in odour standard. The revisions now being proposed comprise a retrofitting of existing SBRs with activated granular sludge (AGS) technology, the omission of the Long Sea Outfall Tunnel and continuation of treated effluent discharge to the Lower Liffey Estuary and associated works. In respect of AGS, the prospective applicant said that this is a more advanced activated sludge process and does not entail a particularly different process; it added that the process in question is not new and has been proven.

The project programme was outlined by the prospective applicant as follows:

- Road works comprising of a new entrance and internal road, approved under case reference number 29N.YA0010, are scheduled to commence construction during Quarter 3 and Quarter 4 2017.
- Capacity upgrade in the order of 400,000 PE extension, approved under case reference number 29N.YA0010, is scheduled to commence construction in Quarter 4 2017.
- The SBR retrofitting for AGS, which is proposed as part of the instant project, is hoped to commence construction circa Quarter 2 2019.
- The formal planning application in respect of this is expected to be lodged with the Board in March 2018.
- The proposed Regional Biosolids Storage Facility, which is proposed as part of the instant project, is hoped to commence construction in 2020.

With respect to the AGS process, the prospective applicant stated its opinion that this, by itself, would not require a planning consent as it is merely a different process to produce better quality effluent. Noting this, the Board's representatives said that the prospective applicant might nonetheless consider including the new SBRs in the retrofitting as part of any formal planning application so as to comprehensively outline the nature and extent of the proposed development. The Board's representatives advised the prospective applicant to be as clear as possible in respect of the permitted and proposed works. Responding to this, the prospective applicant said the EIAR which will accompany the planning application will seek to outline the totality of the plant so as to describe how the plant will function with the proposed new elements such as the retrofitted SBRs.

The prospective applicant referred to the fact that the capacity upgrade for the facility, as per the approval under case reference number 29N.YA0010, will have commenced construction by the time the SID application is lodged with the Board in the first quarter of 2018. These works are necessary in order to comply with the requirements of the EU Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive.

With respect to the future application, the prospective applicant set out the constituent elements of the proposed development which will consist of three main elements:

- Upgrade works to facilitate use of AGS technology
- Regional Biosolids Storage Facility
- Omission of the Long Sea Outfall Tunnel

The prospective applicant emphasised that the proposed development will be for new works exclusively. The EIAR and NIS which will accompany this application will address both the new works and the entire upgrade project.

The Board's representatives raised the matter of the inclusion of the use of the existing outfall for the upgraded facility in the application. The prospective applicant indicated that it would give further consideration to this issue.

The prospective applicant it indicated to the Board that a section 146B alteration request will be submitted to the Board shortly in respect of the construction compounds permitted under 29N.YA0010.

The potential for a separate section 146 amendment to the terms of Condition 1 of 29N.YA0010 (which was raised at the previous meeting) was also discussed. The prospective applicant stated that the purpose of this amendment would be to provide legal surety regarding the extent of the extant permission, should planning permission be granted for the elements identified above. It indicated that this request may be made at the same time as the planning application to avoid any issue of prematurity.

The prospective applicant also provided the Board with an update on the proposed Regional Biosolids Storage Facility. It informed the Board that consultations with stakeholders and relevant prescribed bodies have been held and are also planned for the remainder of 2017. Responding to the Board's query on consultations to date, the prospective applicant said that the main issues arising relate to planning matters such as traffic and odour levels. It advised that a Stage 3 Report is due to be published in August 2017. There are five sites currently under consideration for this facility and the site selection process is progressing.

With respect to the NIS, which is being progressed, the Board's representatives suggested to the prospective applicant that a peer review of this statement might be useful. The prospective applicant noted this.

Conclusion:

The prospective applicant suggested that a further meeting with the Board might take place circa August/September 2107, at which time the aforementioned Stage 3 Report will have been published.

The meeting concluded at 12.10 p.m.

Anne Marie O'Connor
Assistant Director of Planning