

Record Of Meeting



Case Reference/ Description	09.PC0204 – Changes to the volume and nature of Waste to be accepted at the Drehid Waste Management Facility, County Kildare.		
Case Type:	Section 37B of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended		
Meeting:	Meeting with the Environmental Protection Agency		
Date:	18 th February 2016	Start Time:	10.30 a.m.
Location:	Offices of the Environmental Protection Agency, McCumiskey House, Richview, Clonskeagh, Dublin 14	End Time:	12 noon
Chairperson:	Philip Green, Assistant Director of Planning		

Attendees:

Representing An Bord Pleanála

Philip Green, Assistant Director of Planning

Derek Daly, Senior Planning Inspector

Pauline Fitzpatrick, Senior Planning Inspector

Sinéad McInerney, Executive Officer

Representing the Environmental Protection Agency

Brian Meaney, Office of Environmental Sustainability

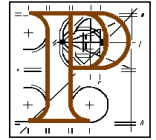
Damien Masterson, Office of Environmental Enforcement

Mary Frances Rochford, Office of Environmental Enforcement

Carol O'Sullivan, Office of Environmental Enforcement

Barry O'Connor, Office of Environmental Enforcement

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Introduction

The representatives of An Bord Pleanála (the Board) and the Environmental Protection Agency (the EPA) were introduced and the Board thanked the EPA for agreeing to meet with it in relation to the proposed development.

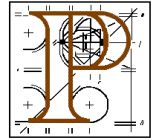
The Board opened the meeting by giving a brief description of the pre-application consultation process being held with the prospective applicant, Bord na Móna Plc, under section 37B of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. The proposed development is for an increase in non-hazardous waste to landfill, increase in volume of waste to composting facility and development of hazardous waste landfill at Drehid Waste Management Facility, County Kildare.

It was explained that the purpose of pre-application consultations is to determine if the proposed development is strategic infrastructure development (SID), to inform the prospective applicant on procedures involved in making an application and to advise on matters relating to proper planning and sustainable development or the environment, which may have a bearing on the Board's decision in respect of a future application. The Board stated that it has held one pre-application consultation meeting with the prospective applicant to date.

Section 37C(4) of the Act provides that An Bord Pleanála may consult with any person who it considers may have information which is relevant to consultations being held under section 37B. The Board has also met with representatives of the Eastern Midlands Region Waste Management Office in relation to the proposal. The purpose of this meeting is an information gathering exercise to seek the views of the EPA and to ascertain if it has any issues or comments in relation to the proposed development that it wishes the Board to raise with the prospective applicant. The Board will keep a record of this meeting which will issue to the EPA and the prospective applicant. The record of the meeting will not become available to the public until the pre-application consultation process has concluded and the Board has made a formal decision on whether the proposed development is or is not SID.

The proposed Agenda for the meeting, which had previously been forwarded to the EPA, was noted.

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Proposed Development

Background:

The existing facility was granted permission on appeal to the Board in 2005 to accept municipal solid waste for a period of 20 years and comprised an engineered landfill for 120,000 tonnes per annum (TPA) and a composting plant for 25,000 TPA (Appeal Reference PL.09.212059).

In 2008, an application was submitted under the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006 to increase the volume of waste to be accepted at the landfill to 360,000 TPA for a period of 7 years (ABP Reference 09.PA0004). In its decision, the Board granted permission for the increased volume of waste to be accepted for a period of 5 years.

In 2013, following a request under section 146B of the Act, the Board altered the terms of the development permitted under Reference 09.PA0004 to allow for the increased volume of waste of 360,000 TPA to be accepted at the landfill for a further 2 year period i.e. up to **December 2015** (ABP Reference 09.PM0003). The facility therefore currently is permitted to accept up to 120,000 TPA until the end of life of the facility in 2028.

Current Proposal:

The proposed development, which is the subject of this pre-application consultation request, involves changes in relation **to the volume and nature of waste to be accepted at the facility**. The prospective applicant also proposes to develop additional capacity for non-hazardous and hazardous waste streams to landfill for a period of 25 years, the pre-treatment or processing of certain waste streams prior to landfill and the increase in the volume of waste to be accepted at the composting facility with the removal of the restriction on its operating life.

Specifically in relation to **non-hazardous waste** it is proposed to provide capacity for a period of 25 years for sustainable landfill of 250,000 TPA of non-hazardous waste. This stream of waste would include:



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- Incinerator bottom ash and in this regard reference is made to Poolbeg and that in the medium term this is likely to be landfilled, principally due to the relatively plentiful supply of aggregates in the market.
- Stabilised waste from biological treatment of the biodegradable fraction of municipal waste.
- The fine fraction of construction and demolition (C&D) waste. Reference was made to the Waste Policy Circular WP 06.15, May 2015, the Department of Environment Community and Local Government (DECLG) in this regard and that the DECLG has introduced a new exemption from payment of the levy to encourage safe disposal of material in lined engineered landfill.
- It is also proposed that up to 15,000 TPA of metals will be recovered from incinerator bottom ash on-site prior to landfill.

To accommodate the increased volume of waste additional landfill capacity is required, the footprint of which will be determined at preliminary design stage.

In relation to the **composting facility**, it is proposed to increase the volume of waste to be accepted from 25,000 TPA to 45,000 TPA and to remove the restriction on the operating life of this facility.

In relation to **hazardous waste** in the submission to the Board the prospective applicant noted that the EPA's National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2014-2020 recommends that Ireland should strive for greater self-sufficiency in hazardous waste management.

The proposed development is to provide capacity for pre-treatment (if required) and sustainable landfill of approximately 85,000 TPA of hazardous waste to include incinerator fly ash and other residues and other hazardous wastes that are currently being exported overseas.

In relation to Incinerator Fly Ash and Other Residues, the incinerator at Carranstown produces approximately 10,000 TPA of hazardous residues and it is expected that the Poolbeg Incinerator will produce 27,000 TPA with an additional 13,000 TPA of hazardous residues produced at other WTE facilities. There is the prospective applicant considers potential for approximately 50,000 TPA of hazardous residues to be produced.

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Other Hazardous Wastes that require landfill disposal including asbestos, some C&D wastes, contaminated soils, industrial wastes, sludges and filter cakes, and metals and heavy-metal-containing wastes and current capacity required is approximately 10,000 to 15,000 TPA and this requirement is expected to at least double up to 2030.

Arising from this need additional landfill capacity will be required, the extent of which will be determined at preliminary design stage.

Any general comments from the EPA

At the outset the EPA referred to the EU Landfill Directive which sets out the requirements with regard to the design and management of and disposal of waste to landfills.

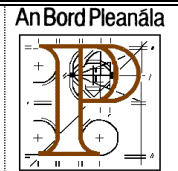
The EPA responded to a request from the Board for an update on an application for an Industrial Emissions License for development of a waste management facility to include the acceptance of non-hazardous and hazardous waste at Hollywood Great, Nags Head, The Naul, County Dublin. The EPA refused to grant an Industrial Emissions License for the proposed development in January 2016 for reasons relating to hydrogeology and the status of the applicant as a fit and proper person. Details of the application and the decision are available on the EPA's website.

The meeting noted that a Mechanical Biological Treatment Facility close to the site of the Drehid Waste Management Facility had been granted planning permission by An Bord Pleanála and has been licensed by the EPA.

Comments from the EPA in relation to the site in terms of the overall framework as set out in the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan

With regard to the overall framework set out in the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2014-2020, the EPA referred to the general principal of self-sufficiency in the management of hazardous waste. The aim is to develop hazardous waste management capacity in Ireland in order to avoid the current practice of export of hazardous waste for disposal overseas. It considers that Recommendation 14 and 15 relating to Infrastructure and Self-sufficiency are of particular relevance.

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Recommendation 14:-

- (i) *Keep under review the provision and facilitation of hazardous waste treatment capacity and make recommendations on the appropriate economic or other instruments necessary for such capacity to be provided, either by the private or public sector.*
- (ii) *Develop national policy or guidance to direct the control of hazardous waste shipments in order to facilitate self-sufficiency in hazardous waste treatment where this is technically, economically, strategically and environmentally advisable.*

The Board noted that the plan strives to eliminate the need for export of hazardous waste material from the State and queried if the plan provides for the import of hazardous waste material for disposal if a facility is developed within the State. The EPA noted that the plan recognises that there could be synergies with Northern Ireland and capacity of waste arising within the Republic and Northern Ireland should therefore be considered. With regard to import and export outside the island of Ireland, the EPA acknowledged that a free market exists within the EU. It was noted that the principles of self-sufficiency and efficiency allow only for Member States to systematically restrict shipments of waste for disposal but even then the matter is conditional.

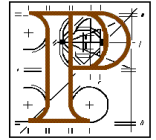
Recommendation 15:-

Prepare and maintain, in consultation with various stakeholders, an inventory of national hazardous waste recovery and disposal capacity.

The EPA confirmed that such an inventory does not exist as of yet. Annual statistics are kept and different data sets exist which factor into the National Waste Report and the report prepared by the EPA for the Waste Statistics Regulation of the European Union.

With regard to disposal of many categories of hazardous waste, the EPA noted that there is an obligation to consider alternatives including recovery and recycling. However, some hazardous waste streams have only one realistic outlet and will be sent to landfill e.g. asbestos.

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The EPA stated that there is a range of hazardous waste types that the plan refers to and it acknowledged that the proposed development refers to different waste streams.

Comments from the EPA in relation to the site in terms of the overall framework for waste management

The Board queried if it is the view of the EPA that the proposed development might undermine existing landfill facilities within the State. The EPA has no data on this and referred to the responsibilities for waste management and capacity planning and the relevant waste management planning regions, of which there are three.

Comments from the EPA in relation to the technologies proposed to be employed

The Board noted that the design of the proposed development is at early stages and the prospective applicant has not yet furnished it with any detailed proposals. The EPA said that the suitability of the site and the standards to be met would need to be stressed to the prospective applicant. For example, in relation to mineral layers, the EPA advised that a non-hazardous waste landfill requires a 1m mineral layer and a hazardous waste landfill requires a 5m mineral layer. The EPA referred to the EU Landfill Directive as the principal driver in the design, construction and operation of landfills and also to the need to ensure other Best Available Techniques (BAT) are employed relating to, for example, the sources of waste to be landfilled and the treatment of waste prior to landfilling, e.g. Waste Incineration BREF and Waste Treatment BREF respectively, both currently being reviewed by the European Commission. The prospective applicant is referred to the relevant EPA landfill manuals series. The Board stated that it would advise the prospective applicant that studies relating to the proposed development should be robust and comprehensive.

Current status of the site in regard to any EPA Licensing

With regard to enforcement, there is one compliance investigation currently open in relation to the Drehid Waste Management Facility. It relates to financial provision and is currently being progressed with the licensee.



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From a licencing and enforcement point of view, the EPA consider that financial provision for the future management of the site, in particular with regard to the disposal of hazardous waste, is an important factor.

Any significant issues arising that the Board should be aware of

The EPA considered that the nature of the proposed design of the cells is an important matter to be considered.

The EPA referred to an elevated level of ammonia in the groundwater which has been recorded in the locality. It stated that this is a wider issue in the area, likely derived from stripped peatland and it is not considered to be specifically related to emissions from the Drehid Waste Management Facility. The Board noted this and said it would raise the issue with the prospective applicant, as a matter to be addressed in the application.

Conclusion

The Board thanked the EPA for meeting with it in relation to the proposed development and stated that it will issue the record of this meeting in due course.

Philip Green
Assistant Director of Planning
21st April 2016