



An
Bord
Pleanála

Record of Meeting 17.PC0223

Case Reference / Description	17.PC0223 Increased acceptance of non-hazardous waste for recovery and disposal, Knockharley Landfill, Co. Meath.		
Case Type	Pre-application consultation		
Meeting	Meeting with EPA via video conference		
Date	29/05/17	Start Time	3 p.m.
Location	Various incl. Offices of An Bord Pleanála	End Time	3.40 p.m.
Chairperson	Pauline Fitzpatrick	Executive Officer	Kieran Somers

Attendees		
Representing An Bord Pleanála		
Staff Member	Email Address	Phone
Pauline Fitzpatrick, Senior Planning Inspector		
Kieran Somers, Executive Officer	k.somers@pleanala.ie	01-8737107
Representing the EPA		
Brian Meaney	Environmental Licensing Programme	
Patrick Byrne	Office of Environmental	

	Enforcement, Dublin	
Carol O' Sullivan	Office of Environmental Enforcement, Dublin	
Mary Frances Rochford	Office of Environmental Enforcement, South East	
Damien Masterson	Office of Environmental Enforcement, South East	

The meeting commenced via video conference at 3 p.m.

The Board said that the instant meeting with the EPA was an information-gathering exercise from its point of view pursuant to section 37C(4) of the Act whereby the Board can consult with any person it considers may have information relevant to the purposes of the consultation under section 37B. A record of the meeting would be taken which would be made public at the closure of the pre application consultation process. A copy of the record will be forwarded to the Agency.

The Board noted that the function of pre-application consultations generally is to determine whether or not a proposed development would constitute strategic infrastructure, to advise on procedural issues and any other matters pertaining to proper planning and sustainable development which, in the opinion of the Board, might have a bearing on any decision.

The Board set out the progress of pre-application consultations to date. It advised the Agency that two meetings have been held with the prospective applicant in relation to PC0223.

The Board set out the constituent elements of the proposed development as follows:

- Increased landfilling of non-hazardous municipal solid waste up to 290,000 tonnes per annum.
- Recovery through long term storage of non-hazardous incinerator bottom ash up to 150,000 tonnes per annum.
- Facility processing building for incinerator bottom ash (IBA) processing or temporary baled municipal solid waste (MSW) storage.
- Leachate treatment/conditioning plant.

The EPA was also informed that the prospective applicant had sought formal closure to the pre-application consultation process. The Inspector's report had been received by the Board, but, by Board Direction dated the 5th May, 2017, the Board had deferred consideration of the case and requested the pre-application

consultation team to examine in more detail the planning and environmental authorisations for the permitted Carranstown and Poolbeg Energy from Waste facilities in respect of proposals and requirements for the recovery or disposal of bottom ash; and to meet with representatives from the Agency to discuss their perspective on strategic management of this waste stream in Ireland and in a European context and as to whether any relevant considerations arise in terms of the IED licences for the Poolbeg or Carranstown facilities, or for the licensing regime for Knockharley Landfill.

As regards bottom ash, the Board noted that the prospective applicant in this pre-application consultation case proposes recovery by way of a dedicated storage area (where it will be stored and available subject to future market conditions).

The Board said that it was seeking to ascertain if the Agency is aware of any future plans at National or European level vis-à-vis the use or re-use of IBA. The Agency replied saying that it is not aware of any specific plans or obligations, but is cognisant generally of the Government's support for recycling; it added that economics and economies of scale may be an important factor in the consideration of how viable such re-use is.

The Agency referred to two applications which are before it for changes to existing licences to enable the acceptance of non-hazardous IBA. These are in respect of the Nurendale facility in County Meath and the Starrus Eco Holding Ltd facility in the Millennium Business Park. Recycling options are referred to in the licence applications

At a European level, the Agency said it was not aware of any specific plans as regards IBA. It noted for the record that the Industrial Emissions Directive (2010/75/EU) is the pertinent EU instrument in this regard. The Agency also drew the Board's attention to the revised Waste Incineration BREF which is currently at first draft stage.

Noting that the prospective applicant has advised of liaison with the Agency, the Board enquired as to the role of the Agency with respect to any future market development or requirement for IBA. The Agency stated that its remit is with regard to the end of waste criteria and that it is required to ensure that any waste residue has no environmental effects; the processes involved prior to this are a matter for the owner and operator of the facility in question.

With respect to the licensing of both the Carranstown and Poolbeg facilities, the Board enquired as to whether there are any conditions attached to these licences which would have an impact on the waste stream into the future. The Agency replied that there is a general requirement on the operators to reduce the quantity of waste; it added that this requires the operators to consider options with regard to use and re-use. Noting this, the Board asked how operators of facilities demonstrate compliance with this. The Agency replied that there is nothing specific in this latter regard, but that there would be a general requirement as part of an Environmental Management Programme. It also noted that the Carranstown facility has some metal removal involved. It also exports some of its bottom ash for backfilling of a mine in Northern Ireland. Poolbeg will not have metal removal and the material will be exported in its raw state.

In respect of the recently operational Waste-to-Energy plant at Poolbeg, the Agency noted that bottom ash produced will be presumed to be hazardous until such time as the operator can prove otherwise.

With regard to any differing opinions on the re-use of IBA, the Board asked if the Agency itself had any views on this. The Agency considered that any divergence may be explained by different economic analyses which have been carried out.

With regard to figures proposed as part of pre-application consultations on the existing facility, the Board said that it had sought to impress upon the prospective applicant the absolute need for clarity with regard to tonnages and the waste stream.

Conclusion:

A copy of the record will be forwarded to the Agency. The record will be made available to the prospective applicant and will be on the public record when the pre-application consultation case is formally concluded.

The meeting concluded at 3. 40 p.m.

Pauline Fitzpatrick
Senior Planning Inspector