

Environmental Protection Agency EIA Planning Water, Energy & Business Support Programme PO Box 3000 Johnstown Castle Estate Co. Wexford Y35 W821

Date: 13 May 2025

**Re:** Greater Dublin Drainage Project consisting of a new wastewater treatment plant, sludge hub centre, orbital sewer, outfall pipeline and regional biosolids storage facility Townlands of Clonshagh, Dubber and Newtown, County Fingal and Dublin City

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Bord Pleanála has received your response in relation to the above mentioned proposed development.

The Board will revert to you in due course in respect of this matter.

More detailed information in relation to strategic infrastructure development can be viewed on the Board's website: www.pleanala.ie.

If you have any queries in the meantime please contact the undersigned officer of the Board. Please quote the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,

**Aisling Reilly** 

Executive Officer Direct Line: 01-8737131

PA09

Teil Glao Áitiúil Facs Láithreán Gréasáin Ríomhphost (01) 858 8100 1800 275 175 (01) 872 2684 www.pleanala.ie bord@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde Baile Átha Cliath 1 D01 V902 64 Marlborough Street Dublin 1 D01 V902

# **Aisling Reilly**

Subj Attachments: FW: ABP-312131-21 ABP-312131-21.pdf; EPA correspondence - 07 June 2024.pdf; ABP-312131-21 - EPA Observation Request.pdf

From: Aisling Reilly Sent: Monday, May 12, 2025 10:50 AM To: eiaplanning@epa.ie Subject: FW: ABP-312131-21

FAO: Marian Doyle

Dear Ms. Doyle,

I am in receipt of your email together with enclosures. An official acknowledgement will issue in due course.

Kind regards,

Aisling Reilly Strategic Infrastructure Development Ext. 7131

From: EIAPlanning <<u>eiaplanning@epa.ie</u>> Sent: Thursday, May 8, 2025 4:49 PM To: Bord <<u>bord@pleanala.ie</u>>; SIDS <<u>sids@pleanala.ie</u>> Cc: Lauren Griffin <<u>lauren.griffin@pleanala.ie</u>> Subject: ABP-312131-21

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## Your Ref: ABP-312131-21

Re: Greater Dublin Drainage Project consisting of a new wastewater treatment plant, sludge hub centre, orbital sewer, outfall pipeline and regional biosolids storage facility, Townlands of Clonshaugh, Dubber and Newtown, County Fingal and Dublin City

Dear Sir/Madam,

I refer to correspondence received by the Agency from An Bord Pleanála dated 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025 in relation to the above referenced development.

Please see attached response dated 08<sup>th</sup> May 2025. Also attached is previous correspondence from the Agency regarding ABP-312131-21 dated 07<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

For all further queries and correspondence relating to planning matters, please contact eiaplanning@epa.ie

Yours faithfully Marian Doyle Water, Energy and Business Support Programme Office of Environmental Sustainability An Clár um Cheadúnú Comhshaoil Oifig um Inbhuanaitheacht Chomhshaoil



From: Lauren Griffin <<u>lauren.griffin@pleanala.ie</u>> Sent: Friday 4 April 2025 10:48 To: ElAPlanning <<u>eiaplanning@epa.ie</u>> Subject: Greater Dublin Drainage Project - ABP-312131-21

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please see attached soft copy letter dated 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025 requesting observations from the EPA, in relation to the Greater Dublin Drainage Project.

The hard copy of the letter and the attached reports will issue today.

Kind regards,

Lauren

Lauren Griffin Executive Officer Strategic Infrastructure Development An Bord Pleanála 64 Marlborough Street Dublin 1 D01 V902 Teil: 01-8737244 Facs: 01-8722684

Má fhaigheann tú an ríomhphost seo lasmuigh de na gnáthuaireanta oibre, ní bheidh mé ag súil le freagra ná gníomh lasmuigh de d'uaireanta oibre féin.

If you receive this email outside of normal working hours, I do not expect a response or action outside of your own working hours

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Headquarters, PO Box 3000 Johnstown Castle Estate Co Wexford, Y35 W821, Ireland

Ceannchethrú, Bosca Poist 3000 Eastát Chaisleán Bhaile Sheáin Contae Loch Gharman, Y35 W821, Éire

08 May 2025

## Your Ref: ABP-312131-21

# Re: Planning Application: Greater Dublin Drainage Project consisting of a new wastewater treatment plant, sludge hub centre, orbital sewer, outfall pipeline and regional biosolids storage facility, Townlands of Clonshaugh, Dubber and Newtown, County Fingal and Dublin City

Dear Sir/Madam,

I refer to correspondence received by the Agency from An Bord Pleanála (the Board) dated 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025 in relation to the planning application for the above referenced development.

The Agency is satisfied that the above application for permission is development comprising or for the purposes of a waste water discharge that requires a licence.

The Agency received a licence application on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2024 relating to the development described above. The details of the application are set out below:

Licence Type:	Waste Water Discharge (WWD)
Name and address of applicant:	Uisce Éireann, Colvill House, 24-26 Talbot Street, Dublin 1, Dublin
Location of agglomeration:	Dublin North Agglomeration
Reference No:	D0553-01

In your correspondence dated 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025 you requested the Agency to make observations in relation to:

- (i) The likely impact of the proposed development on wastewater discharges, and;
- (ii) The Board's provisional assessment of the likely impact of the proposed development on wastewater discharges.

The Agency notes that the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) (Amendment) Regulations 2024 were published on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2024. These regulations amended Regulation 44 of Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007 (S.I. No. 684 of 2007) to which this consultation relates. The Agency, when considering its observations, has had due regard to your Specialist Report and Inspectors Assessment submitted with this request. The Agency makes the below observations on point (i) above only.

 It is noted from the Boards correspondence to the Agency's consultation under licence application D0553-01 dated 13<sup>th</sup> March 2025 that overflows do not form part of the proposed GDD development before the Board. Stormwater overflows and emergency overflows from an agglomeration are part of the waste water discharge, as defined by the Waste Water Discharge (authorisation) Regulations 2007 as amended and therefore form part of the assessment when considering the likely impacts on surface water bodies. It appears (Section 6.1 of the Specialist Report) that the model addresses impact from the discharge of the UV Treated effluent only.

The Agency confirms that, in line with its statutory responsibilities, it will be doing its own assessment as part of the consideration of the licence application. This assessment will address the environmental impact arising from all waste water discharges, including discharges from the primary discharge point and discharges from storm water overflows and emergency overflows throughout the sewer network.

2. The Inspectors Assessment submitted (para 2.9) concludes "...that there will be an increase of waste water discharges on foot of the proposed development and that the impact, cumulatively with already existing discharges will have an imperceptible to slight impact on the environment and water quality."

The Agency confirms that, in line with its statutory responsibilities under Regulation 6, it will be doing its own assessment as part of the consideration of the licence application. The discharge will be controlled according to the combined approach and stricter limits can be applied where necessary to achieve the environmental objectives.

It should be noted that the WWD Regulations focus on discharges from areas served by Uisce Éireann agglomerations (sewer networks). These regulations **do not** regulate:

- Waste water treatment plants other than the actual discharge
- Odours from waste water treatment plants including associated infrastructure (e.g. pumping stations)
- Noise from waste water treatment plants including associated infrastructure (e.g. pumping stations)

Regarding Regulation 6(7) of the WWD Regulations, it is noted that previous observations were made to An Bord Pleanála on 07 June 2024, (attached) which was prior to receipt of a WWD licence application.

The licence application D0553-01 was accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and EIAR Addendum. The EIAR was notified to you on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025 and your comments, received on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2025, have been noted. The licence application, EIAR and EIAR Addendum may be viewed on the Agency's website <u>www.epa.ie</u>. It is noted that the EIAR and EIAR Addendum submitted with the licence application *appear* to be the same EIAR and EIAR Addendum submitted to An Bord Pleanála with the planning application.

The licence application is currently under assessment. The EIAR and EIAR Addendum will be considered and assessed by the Agency as part of its assessment for the purposes of EIA. The Agency shall ensure that before the licence is granted, the licence application will be made subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment. The Agency shall have regard to the matters mentioned in the EIAR and EIAR Addendum in respect of the development only in so far as they relate to the risk of environmental pollution of the receiving waters from the waste water discharge concerned.

All observations from An Bord Pleanála will be taken into account as part of the Agency's assessment and before making a decision in relation to the licence application. Please note that you will be requested to provide the documentation relating to the EIA you have carried out to the Agency under Section 173C(4) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended.

Finally, please note that in accordance with Regulation 21(6)(d) of the WWD Regulations, the Agency cannot issue a decision on a licence application which addresses the development above until a planning decision has been made.

For all further queries and correspondence relating to planning matters, please contact eiaplanning@epa.ie.

Yours faithfully,

Jim Moriarty

In Marinty

Water, Energy and Business Support Office of Environmental Sustainability An Clár Tacaíochta maidir le hUisce, Fuinneamh agus Gnó Oifig um Inbhuanaitheacht Chomhshaoil



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2 May 2024

Attn: Philomena Kelly EIA Planning Environmental Protection Agency PO Box 3000 Johnstown Castle Estate County Wexford Y35 W821

Subject: Notice of Further Information in Respect of a Direct Planning Application Remittal to An Bord Pleanála for the Greater Dublin Drainage Project consisting of a new wastewater treatment plant, sludge hub centre, orbital sewer, outfall pipeline and regional biosolids storage facility (An Bord Pleanála Reference Number ABP-312131-21).

Dear Sir / Madam,

Please be advised that Uisce Éireann has submitted further information (the "Further Information") in relation to an application to An Bord Pleanála for the Greater Dublin Drainage Project (hereinafter referred to as the "Proposed Project"), comprised under planning reference number ABP-312131-21 (the "Remittal Application").

An Bord Pleanála previously made a decision to grant the planning application for the Proposed Project by Order dated 11 November 2019 under reference number ABP-301908-18. That decision was quashed by Order of the High Court and the case was remitted by that Court to An Bord Pleanála for a fresh determination. Following the remittal Order, An Bord Pleanála decided that given the passage of time since the submission of the original planning application, and in accordance with Section 37F(1)(a) and (c) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), Uisce Éireann should have the opportunity to update, where appropriate, the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) and any other information submitted. The Further Information has been prepared in response to that request from An Bord Pleanála to provide a full update, in the form of Addendum Reports. In the preparation of the Further Information, Uisce Éireann and its technical advisors have considered the extent to which each of the technical chapters of the EIAR and the NIS are required to be updated, having particular regard to:

- Changes to the baseline environment;
- The requirement for updated surveys; and
- Changes to the law, policy, and industry standards and guidance in the intervening period.

In so far as relevant to the Further Information, Uisce Éireann has also had regard to the information presented at the Oral Hearing for application ABP-301908-18 and the High Court proceedings in respect of that application, including the addition of ultraviolet (UV) treatment and the extension to the River Mayne Culvert, such that the Proposed Project description has been updated.



Subject: Notice of Further Information in Respect of a Direct Planning Application Constitution Remittal to An Bord Pleanála for the Greater Dublin Drainage Project consisting of a new wastewater (treatment plant, sludge hub centre, orbital sewer, outfall pipeline and regional biosolids storage facility (An Bord Pleanála Reference Number ABP-312131-21).

The Further Information presents any changes or updates to the Planning Report, EIAR, NIS and technical reports and drawings, where appropriate.

In accordance with An Bord Pleanála's direction dated 7 March 2024, copies of the Further Information are being sent to prescribed authorities, together with a notice which clarifies the relevant submission / observation period. The Further Information is available from the project website at www.gddapplication.ie, and a link to this website has also been provided to eiaplanning@epa.ie, as requested.

Specifically, submissions / observations in relation to the Further Information may be made to An Bord Pleanála, in writing, during a period of 32 days commencing on 7 May 2024, in relation to:

- The likely effects on the environment of the Proposed Project; and
- The implications of the Proposed Project for proper planning and sustainable development in the area concerned, if carried out.

An Bord Pleanála shall have regard to submissions / observations made on foot of this invitation.

Any submissions / observations in relation to the Further Information may be made to An Bord Pleanála. Unless the prescribed body is exempt from having to pay such fee, a submission / observation must be accompanied by a fee of €50 where a submission was not previously made by the submitter relative to the original planning application (under reference number ABP-301908-18 or reference number ABP-312131-21). A submission requiring a fee can be submitted by hand or by post to An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Rotunda, Dublin 1, D01 V902, or through the An Bord Pleanála portal available on the An Bord Pleanála website at www.pleanala.ie.

Where a submission / observation was previously made by a submitter in relation to the Proposed Project, no fee will be required, and the submission / observation can be submitted by hand or by post to An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Rotunda, Dublin 1, D01 V902, or by email to laps@pleanala.ie.

An Bord Pleanála may give approval to the Remittal Application with or without conditions or may refuse the Remittal Application. A person may question the validity of a decision of An Bord Pleanála by way of an application for judicial review under Order 84 of the rules of the Superior Courts (S.I. No. 15 of 1986). Practical information on the review mechanism can be found on the Citizens Information Board website (www.citizensinformation.ie) and on the An Bord Pleanála website (www.pleanala.ie).

Submissions / observations must be received by An Bord Pleanála no later than 5:30pm on 7 June 2024.

Any enquiries relating to the application process should be directed to the Strategic Infrastructure Development Section of An Bord Pleanála (Telephone Number 01 858 8100).

Yours sincerely,

Jellian Bolton

Jillian Bolton Director of Operations

For and on behalf of Jacobs Engineering Ireland Ltd (Agent)

jillian.bolton@jacobs.com

From:	ElAPlanning
	An Bord Pleanala; sids@pleanala.ie; laps@pleanala.ie
Subject:	ABP-312131-21: Notice of Further Information in Respect of a Direct Planning Application Remittal to An Bord Pleanála for the Greater Dublin Drainage
	Project
Date:	Friday 7 June 2024 14:35:32
Attachments:	image002.png
	Letter to Prescribed Bodies EPA.pdf
	image001.png
	image005.png
	image006.png
	image001.ong

#### Your Ref: ABP-312131-21

## Re: Notice of Further Information in Respect of a Direct Planning Application Remittal to An Bord Pleanála for the Greater Dublin Drainage Project consisting of a new wastewater treatment plant, sludge hub centre, orbital sewer, outfall pipeline and regional biosolids storage facility

Dear Sir/Madam,

I refer to correspondence received by the Agency from consultants on behalf of Uisce Éireann on 07 May 2024 in relation to the planning application and Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for the above referenced development. The Agency makes the below observations.

The Agency is satisfied that the above application for permission is development comprising or for the purposes of a waste water discharge that requires a licence. The Agency has not yet received a licence application relating to the development described above.

The Agency granted a revised waste water discharge licence (Register No. D0034-02) to Uisce Éireann for the Greater Dublin Area agglomeration, which includes Ringsend waste water treatment plant (WWTP) on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2024. Ringsend WWTP is currently undergoing a €500m upgrade to increase the capacity to treat wastewater for a population equivalent of 2.4 million.

The proposed development by Uisce Éireann (Ref: ABP-312131-21) includes construction of a new WWTP in Clonshaugh, North County Dublin. It is noted from the planning documentation that the proposed development is intended to augment the treatment capacity provided at Ringsend WWTP and that drainage from some areas of the existing Ringsend agglomeration would be diverted to the proposed WWTP. It is envisaged that the proposed WWTP at Clonshaugh would assist in the provision of treatment capacity for future development noting capacity constraints of the Ringsend WWTP.

It is noted that the planning application Ref: ABP-312131-21 is accompanied by an EIAR. Should the Agency receive a licence application for the development, the applicant will be required to submit the associated EIAR to the Agency as part of the licence application. The Agency shall have regard to the matters mentioned in the EIAR in respect of the development only in so far as they relate to the risk of environmental pollution of the receiving waters from the waste water discharge concerned.

In addition, consultation on the licence application and EIAR will be carried out in accordance with Regulation 21(6)/21(7) of the European Union (Waste Water Discharge) Regulations 2007-2020 (hereafter referred to as the WWD Regulations) as appropriate. All observations from An Bord Pleanála will be taken into account as part of the Agency's assessment and before making a decision in relation to the licence application. Please also note that you will be requested to provide the documentation relating to the EIA you have carried out to the Agency.

The Agency wishes to bring to your attention, the requirements of Regulation 41 of the WWD Regulations relating to the limitation of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. In particular, your determination of the application should not cause a breach or exacerbate breaches of the combined approach or otherwise cause serious water pollution. The Agency would further advise that the development shall not result in a contravention of the Water Framework Directive, Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive, Habitats Directive, Birds Directive, and Environmental Liabilities Directive, as appropriate.

Please note that the proposed development requires a Waste Water Discharge Licence. If An Bord Pleanála determines to grant permission, the Agency requests that you consider including a condition to the grant of the permission that requires Uisce Éireann to submit an application for a licence to the Agency within six months of the final grant of permission and before any development starts, unless with prior written agreement of the EPA.

Any consultation from An Bord Pleanála to the Agency under Regulation 44 of the WWD Regulations should include An Bord Pleanála's assessment of the likely impact of the proposed development on waste water discharges.

Finally, please note that in accordance with Regulation 21(6)(d) of the WWD Regulations, the Agency cannot issue a

decision on a licence application which addresses the development above until a planning decision has been made.

For all further queries and correspondence relating to planning matters, please contact eiaplanning@epa.ie

Yours faithfully, Water, Energy and Business Support

Water, Energy and Business Support Office of Environmental Sustainability An Clár Tacaíochta maidir le hUisee, Fuinneamh agus Gnó Oifig um Inbhuanaitheacht Chomhshaoil



From: McGlynn, Stephanie <<u>Stephanie.McGlynn@jacobs.com</u>> Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2024 7:55 AM

To: EIAPlanning <<u>eiaplanning@epa.ie</u>>

**Subject:** FAO Philomena Kelly - Notice of Further Information in Respect of a Direct Planning Application Remittal to An Bord Pleanála for the Greater Dublin Drainage Project (An Bord Pleanála Reference Number ABP-312131-21) **Importance:** High

#### Good Morning,

Please see the attached letter in relation to the Greater Dublin Drainage Project, a copy of which has been sent via registered express post.

The consultation period is open from today, 07 May to 07 June 2024. The Further Information comprises the following documents, all of which are available on the dedicated project website at <u>www.gddapplication.ie</u>. The original 2018 application is also available on the dedicated website.

#### **Remittal Documents**

Document Category	Document Type	Document Title
Planning	Technical Reports	Addendum Planning Report
Documents		GDD Addendum Engineering Design Report
		GDD Addendum Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan
		GDD Addendum Outline CEMP Appendix 1 Addendum Planning Drawing Register
		GDD Addendum Outline CEMP Appendix 2 Addendum Surface Water Management Plan
		GDD Revised Flood Risk Assessment Report
		Water Framework Directive Assessment Report
		RBSF Addendum Engineering Design Report
		RBSF Addendum Flood Risk Assessment
	Planning Drawings	GDD Addendum Planning Drawings Cover and Contents
		32102902-2120_Regional WwTP Plan ASP Option (Round)
		32102902-2121_Regional WwTP Plan ASP Option (1 of 6)
		32102902-2122_Regional WwTP Plan ASP Option (2 of 6)
		32102902-2123_Regional WwTP Plan ASP Option (3 of 6)
		32102902-2124_Regional WwTP Plan ASP Option (4 of 6)
		32102902-2125_Regional WwTP Plan ASP Option (5 of 6)
		32102902-2126_Regional WwTP Plan ASP Option (6 of 6)
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		32102902-2136_Regional WwTP Sections ASP Option- Sectional Elevation Cut (Sheet 2 of 3)
		32102902-2137_Regional WwTP Sections ASP Option- Sectional Elevation Cut (Sheet 3 of 3)
		32102902-2148_Proposed Culvert at Mayne River Crossing - WwTP Access Road (Sheet 1 of 2)
		32102902-2149_Proposed Culvert at Mayne River Crossing - WwTP Access Road (Sheet 2 of 2)
Invironmental	Revised Natura Impact	Revised Natura Impact Statement
Documents	Statement	

EIAR Addendum Volume 1A	Addendum Non-Technical Summary
EIAR Addendum	Volume 2A Part A Cover, Preface, Content and Glossary
Volume 2A Part A	Chapter 1A Introduction
	Chapter 2A The Environmental Impact Assessment Process
	Chapter 3A The Need for the Proposed Project
	Chapter 4A Description of the Proposed Project
	Chapter 5A Consideration of Alternatives
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	Appendix A1.1 Details of Competent Experts
EIAR Addendum Volume 3A Part A	Volume 3A Part A Cover, Preface, Content and Glossary Chapter 6A Population and Human Health: Population
Volume SAT alt A	Chapter 7A Population and Human Health: Human Health
	Chapter 8A Marine Water Quality
	Chapter 9A Biodiversity (Marine)
	Chapter 10A Biodiversity (Marine Ornithology)
	Chapter 11A Biodiversity (Terrestrial and Freshwater Aquatic)
	Chapter 12A Landscape and Visual
	Chapter 13A Traffic and Transport
	Chapter 14A Air Quality, Odour and Climate
	Chapter 15A Noise and Vibration
	Chapter 16A Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage
	Chapter 17A Hydrology and Hydrogeology
	Chapter 18A Soils and Geology
	Chapter 19A Agronomy
	Chapter 20A Waste
	Chapter 21A Material Assets
	Chapter 22A Risk of Major Accidents and / or Disasters
	Chapter 23A Cumulative Impacts and Environmental Interactions
	Chapter 24A Summary of Mitigation Measures
	Chapter 25A Summary of Residual Impact
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	Appendix A6.2 Relevant Local Area Plans
	Appendix A7.1 Response to Human Health Questions at the 2019 Oral Hearing
	Appendix A8.1 Responses to Marine Water Quality Questions at the 2019 Oral Hearing
	Appendix A9.1 Marine Habitat Assessment Survey
	Appendix A9.2 Ireland's Eye Sublittoral Biotope Survey Report
	Appendix A9.3 Written Responses to Biodiversity (Marine) Queries at the 2019 Oral Hearing
	Appendix A10.1 Ornithology (Marine) Baseline Survey Report
	Appendix A10.2 Revised Vessel Management Plan
	Appendix A10.3 Written Responses to Biodiversity (Marine Ornithology) at the 2019 Oral Hearin
	Appendix A11.1 Terrestrial Baseline Survey Report
	Appendix A11.2 Terrestrial Ornithology Technical Report
	Appendix A11.3 Responses to Biodiversity (Terrestrial) Queries
	Appendix A13.1 Traffic Calculations
	Appendix A13.2 Count Data
	Appendix A13.3 Updated Construction Programme
	Appendix A13.4 Junction 10 Outputs
	Appendix A13.5 Responses to Traffic and Transport Questions at the 2019 Oral Hearing
	Appendix A14.1 Climate (Greenhouse Gas Assessment)
	Appendix A14.2 Baseline Ambient Air Quality Report 2022
	Appendix A14.3 Response to Air Quality and Odour Questions at the 2019 Oral Hearing
	Appendix A15.1 Detailed Baseline Noise Monitoring Report
	Appendix A15.2 Connolly Hospital Baseline Vibration Monitoring
	Appendix A15.3 Response to Noise and Vibration Questions at the 2019 Oral Hearing
	Appendix A18.1 Response to Soils and Geology Questions at the 2019 Oral Hearing
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	Appendix 6B RBSF Terrestrial Baseline Report
	Appendix 8A Ambient Air Quality Standards
	Appendix 8C Greenhouse Gas Assessment
	Appendix 00 Ordenhouse day Assessment
	Appendix 14A Photomontages
	Appendix 17A Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan Addendum
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	Figure 6.3 Commercial Clusters Within the Proposed Project Study Area
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Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Kind regards,

### Stephanie

Stephanie McGlynn BSc MSc MCIWEM C.WEM CEnv | Jacobs | Principal Environmental Scientist | Water and Environment | Termini Building, 3 Arkle Road, Sandyford, Dublin 18 | stephanie.mcglynn@jacobs.com | www.jacobs.com



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Our ref: ABP-312131-21 Ilicant's Name: Uisce Eireann EIS/NIS: Yes



An Bord Pleanála

Environmental Protection Agency EIA Planning Water, Energy & Business Support Programme PO Box 3000 Johnstown Castle Estate Co. Wexford Y35 W821

Date: 04 April 2025

**Re:** Greater Dublin Drainage Project consisting of a new wastewater treatment plant, sludge hub centre, orbital sewer, outfall pipeline and regional biosolids storage facility Townlands of Clonshaugh, Dubber and Newtown, County Fingal and Dublin City

Dear Sir/Madam

I refer to the above mentioned proposed development which is the subject of a current application for planning permission (ABP ref. 312131-21). This application has been made directly to An Bord Pleanála under the provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, in respect of proposed development classified as strategic infrastructure development.

The application was remitted to the Board further to the quashing of the Board Order dated 11 November 2019 (ABP ref. 301908-18) by the High Court because the Board failed to correctly identify and comply with its obligations under Article 44(1) of the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007, as amended by the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations, 2016 (the "WWDA Regulations") to seek the observations of the EPA on the likely impact of the proposed development on waste water discharges (*Kemper v An Bord Pleanala and Ors* [2020] IEHC 601).

Subsequent to the *Kemper* judgment, Article 44(1) of the WWDA Regulations was further amended by the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) (Amendment) Regulations 2024 and now provides:

44. (1) Where Regulation 41, 42 or 43 applies, before making a decision in respect of a proposed development, a planning authority or An Bord Pleanála, as the case may be, shall, where the authority or the Board consider that the proposed development may have a significant impact on waste water discharges, request the Agency in writing, within such period (being not later than 6 weeks from the date of the request) as may be specified in the written request, to make observations in relation to the likely impact of the proposed development on waste water discharges and, where so requested, the Agency shall comply with the request to make such observations.

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64 Sráid Maoilbhride 6 Baile Átha Cliath 1 D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street Dublin 1 D01 V902 The Board considers that the proposed development may have a significant impact on waste water discharges. In accordance with Article 44(1) of the WWDA Regulations as amended, and having (ard to the *Kemper* judgment, you are accordingly requested to make observations in relation to:

- the likely impact of the proposed development on wastewater discharges, and;
- (ii) the Board's provisional assessment of the likely impact of the proposed development on wastewater discharges, appended to this letter.

Notwithstanding the 2024 amendment to the WWDA Regulations, the Board considered it appropriate to provide its provisional assessment to the EPA for its observations in the circumstances of this application and in light of the *Kemper* judgment.

Your observations in relation to the above must be received by the Board not later than 6 weeks from the date of this request i.e. not later than 5.30pm on the 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2025.

In addition, pursuant to Article 6(7)(b) of the WWDA Regulations as inserted by the European Union (Waste Water Discharge) Regulations 2020, the Board hereby requests the EPA to forward to the Board any other submissions it may have on the application for permission, including the EIAR and EIAR addendum submitted subsequent to remittal of the application. Any such submissions should also be furnished **not later than 5.30pm on the 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2025.** 

A copy of the application and the EIAR and EIAR Addendum can be viewed on the Boards website at <u>https://www.pleanala.ie/en-ie/case/312131</u>.

If you have any queries in relation to the matter, or require any further documents or information relating to the remitted application, please contact the undersigned officer of the Board.

Please quote the above-mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,

Aisling Reilly Executive Officer Direct Line: 01-8737131

Teil Glao Áitiúil Facs Láithreán Gréasáin Ríomhphost

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