Our Case Number: ABP-318302-23



An Bord Pleanála

~Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Licensing Programme PO Box 3000 Johnstown Castle Estate Co. Wexford Y35 W821

Date: 25 March 2024

Re: Expansion of the Bauxite Disposal Area, extension to the existing Salt Cake Disposal Cell and extension of the permitted borrow pit at Aughinish Alumina Limited In the townlands of Aughinish East, Aughinish West, Island Mac Teige, Glenbane West, and Fawnamore at or adjacent to Aughinish Island, Askeaton, Co. Limerick

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Bord Pleanála has received your recent letter in relation to the above mentioned case. The contents of your letter have been noted.

If you have any queries in relation to the matter please contact the undersigned officer of the Board at laps@pleanala.ie

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

Yours faithfully

Breda Ingle Executive Officer Direct Line: 01-8737291

CH08

ppl

Teil Glao Áitiúil Facs Láithreán Gréasáin Ríomhphost Tel ((LoCall 14 Fax ((Website w Email be

(01) 858 8100 1800 275 175 (01) 872 2684 www.pleanala.ie bord@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde 64 Baile Átha Cliath 1 D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street Dublin 1 D01 V902 Attachments:

00206B9FA2EF240221144820.pdf; 312146-21 response to Aughinish Alumina 24_05 _2022.pdf

From: EIAPlanning <<u>eiaplanning@epa.ie</u>> Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 2:55 PM To: Bord <<u>bord@pleanala.ie</u>>; SIDS <<u>sids@pleanala.ie</u>> Subject: Your Ref: ABP-318302-23

Caution: This is an **External Email** and may have malicious content. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments. When in doubt, contact the ICT Helpdesk.

Your Ref: ABP-318302-23

<u>Re: Expansion of the Bauxite Disposal Area, extension to the existing Salt Cake Disposal Cell and</u> <u>extension of the permitted borrow pit at Aughinish Alumina Limited in the townlands of Aughinish East,</u> <u>Aughinish West, Island Mac Teige, Glenbane West, and Fawnamore at or adjacent to Aughinish Island,</u> <u>Askeaton, Co. Limerick</u>

Dear Sir/Madam,

I refer to your letter received by the Agency on 21st February 2024 in relation to the planning application for the above referenced development. The Agency was consulted by An Bord Pleanala under Ref: ABP-312146-21 on 27th April 2022 in relation to the Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) application and Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and the Agency issued a response on 24th May 2022 (attached). We note from your correspondence to the Agency dated 13th December 2023 that this case is now reference ABP-318302-23. The Agency makes the below observations.

Aughinish Alumina Limited was granted an Industrial Emissions (IE) Licence Register No. P0035- 07 on 28th September 2021 for an installation located at Aughinish East, Aughinish West, Island Mac Teige, Glenbane West, and Fawnamore, Askeaton, Co. Limerick. The IE Licence is currently under review (Register No: P0035-08). The licence review application was received on 28th January 2022 for the following classes of activity:

Regulated Activity	Hein Okus ‡	Activity Description (Regulated Activity)	Name (EPA Act Industry Sector) ‡
5.13 (e)	Yes	The production of inorganic chemicals, such as non-metals, metal oxides or other inorganic compounds such as calcium carbide, silicon, silicon carbide (production means the production on an industrial scale by chemical or biological processing)	Chemicals
2.1	No	Combustion of fuels in installations with a total rated thermal input of 50 MW or more.	Energy
11.1	No	The recovery or disposal of waste in a facility, within the meaning of the Act of 1996, which facility is connected or associated with another activity specified in this Schedule in respect of which a licence or revised licence under Part IV is in force or in respect of which a licence under the said Part is or will be required.	Waste

The licence application may need to be updated to accommodate the changes proposed as part of the planning application.

The licence review application was accompanied by an EIAR. The EIAR was notified by the Agency to An Bord Pleanala on 01st February 2022 in correspondence under the licence review application. A response has not been received to date. The licence review application and EIAR may be viewed on the Agency's website <u>www.epa.ie.</u> It is noted that the EIAR submitted with the licence review application appears to be the same EIAR submitted to An Bord Pleanala with the SID application.

It is noted that the SID application was accompanied by an EIAR. The Agency has already determined that the IE licence review application must be made subject to an EIA as respects the matters that come within the functions of the Agency in accordance with Section 83(2A) and Section 87(1G)(a) of the EPA Act (see EIA Screening Determination dated 14th April 2022 on the EPA website). Should the applicant wish to include the changes proposed in the planning application as part of the licence review application, the applicant will be required to submit the associated EIAR to the Agency as part of the licence review application, if not already submitted. This EIAR will be considered by the Agency as part of its assessment for the purposes of EIA and further consultation with the planning authority will be undertaken where relevant. Please note that you will be requested to provide the documentation relating to the EIA you have carried out to the Agency under Section 173A(4) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended.

The licence review application is currently under assessment. All matters to do with emissions to the environment from the activities proposed, the licence review application documentation and EIAR will be considered and assessed by the Agency.

Where the Agency is of the opinion that the activities, as proposed, cannot be carried on, or cannot be effectively regulated under a licence then the Agency cannot grant a licence for such an activity. Should the Agency decide to grant a licence in respect of the activity, as proposed, it will incorporate conditions that will ensure that appropriate National and EU standards are applied, and that Best Available Techniques (BAT) will be used in the carrying on of the activities.

Finally, please note that in accordance with Section 87(1D)(d) of the EPA Act, the Agency cannot issue a Proposed Determination on a licence review 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,

Office of Environmental Sustainability Oifig um Inbhuanaitheacht Chomhshaoil



053-916 0600 (Switch) eiaplanning@epa.ie www.epa.ie Our Case Number: ABP-318302-23



~Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Licensing Programme PO Box 3000 Johnstown Castle Estate Co. Wexford Y35 W821



Date: 20 February 2024

Re: Expansion of the Bauxite Disposal Area, extension to the existing Sait Cake Disposal Cell and extension of the permitted borrow pit at Aughinish Alumina Limited In the townlands of Aughinish East, Aughinish West, Island Mac Teige, Glenbane West, and Fawnamore at or adjacent to Aughinish Island, Askeaton, Co. Limerick

Dear Sir / Madam,

Enclosed for your information is a copy of additional information received by the Board, from Tom Phillips & Associates, on behalf of the applicant, Aughinish Alumina Limited, in relation to the above mentioned case.

The Board hereby considers it appropriate to invite you to make a submission on the observations received in relation to the application. Please be advised that any response to the Board's invitation should not contain any additional reports or supplementary reports and should be confined to the issues raised in the observations received by the Board. Any submission in relation to the above must be received by the Board not later than <u>5.30pm on the 21st March, 2024.</u>

If you have any queries in relation to the matter 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,

Breda Ingle

Executive Officer Direct Line: 01-8737291

Tel

Fax

LoCall

Wabsite

Email

PA08

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

64 Sráid Macilbhride Baile Átha Cliath 1 D01 V902

64 Mariborough Street Dublin 1 D01 V902

، (<i>.</i>
I O M + <u>A S S (</u> PLANNING An Bord Plea 64 Maribord	PHILL DCIAIESAN FOR THE FURNE ABP- 219 ABP- 219 ABP- 219	BD PLEAN	e info@tpa.se w x vi w.tpa.re	
Dublin 1 Dear Sir/Ma	Fee: 6 Time: <u>/< -</u>	Type: 46 Wy: 14-9-1	d Friday 1	9 th January 2024

RE: STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION FOR EXPANSION OF THE BAUXITE RESIDUE DISPOSAL AREA AT AUGHINISH ALUMINA LIMITED, IN THE TOWNLANDS OF AUGHINISH EAST, AUGHINISH WEST, ISLAND MAC TEIGE, GLENBANE WEST, AND FAWNAMORE AT OR ADJACENT TO AUGHINISH ISLAND, ASKEATON, CO. LIMERICK

An Bord Pleanála Ref: ABP-318302-23

Response to An Bord Pleanála Request

1.0 Introduction

٢.

Tom Phillips + Associates¹ (TPA) have been instructed by the Applicant, Aughinish Alumina Limited² (AAL), to submit a response to the request received from An Bord Pleanåla (ABP), via letter dated 13th December 2023, in relation to the expansion of the Bauxite Residue Disposal Area (BRDA) at an existing alumina facility at Aughinish Island, Askeaton, Co. Limerick. This response is submitted on or before the 19th January 2023 as outlined in correspondence received from ABP. In this response Sections 2.0 and 3.0 below deal, respectively, with requests No's 1 and 2 in ABP's correspondence.

2.0 Submission in relation to the Application Documentation

It is acknowledged that ABP have invited the Applicant to make any further submission, if they wish to do so, on the application.

At the outset, it is important to note that the description of the proposed development remains exactly as applied for in the original application under ABP-312146-21. There are no physical (or other) changes sought in relation to the proposed development since ABP's decision to grant permission for the original application on 31st August 2022 (which decision was later quashed on consent of ABP). There are no further changes to the works involved in the proposed BRDA raise or to the nature and extent of the use applied for.

² Aughinish Island, Askeaton, Co. Limerick.

				TOWN PLANNIN	s consultants
6 3 m-1"	nd se	ales .	APP-LUCAT	at a trans	Strater
	Lizze Donnelly		Suge Foll.		2 - 10- 0 - 14 II
	from Phillips and Groundley Lighter,	25345	经资产中1300年,中国的1300	liay jarland	

¹ 80 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2.

1.7

The AAL facility operates under the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Industrial Emissions Licence (IEL) PD035-07, which was issued to the Applicant on 28th September 2021. As part of the IEL, the Applicant is required to submit annual environmental reports to the EPA providing information regarding emissions. All such reports are publicly available on the EPA website. The most recent annual environmental report submitted to the EPA by the Applicant was in March 2023. This report contains data in relation to emissions to air and water.

Since the submission of the original application in December 2021, the operation of the Borrow Pit (permitted under ABP-301011-18) commenced in June 2022, including 4 No. blasts undertaken between June and September 2022. The monitoring of these blasts illustrate that they were fully compliant with mitigation outlined in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (as outlined in the permitted Borrow Pit application and the current BRDA Raise application) and the IEL Licence. This data is provided as Attachment 7 of the annual reporting, which can be accessed at <u>e6476152-7b9f-4d20-b332-70f61d68e996.pdf</u> (epa.ie). ³

A review has also been undertaken of whether there are any other projects, existing and / or newly approved, since the original application was submitted to ABP, and which did not form part of the cumulative impact exercise conducted by the Applicant. Further to this additional review it is concluded that no significant cumulative impacts have been identified within the assessments carried out to inform the EIAR and NIS.

As regards recent updates of those statutory plans and policies that the Board is required to take into consideration, the Board will be aware of course of its duty under Section 15 of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 to, in so far as practicable, carry out its functions in a manner consistent with the climate plans, strategles and objectives referred to in Section 15. In that regard, ABP will be aware that the most recently approved Climate Action Plan is now the Climate Action Plan 2024 (CAP24). In relation to the Limerick Development Plan 2022 to 2028, this Plan was formally adopted in July 2022 prior to the Board's initial decision in August 2022. There have been no material changes or variations to the Development Plan; but for completeness commentary on the more recent Plan is presented below; followed by commentary on recent climate plans and policies.

The Applicant considers the information that the Board has available to it on foot of this Response and in the EIAR and NIS currently before the Board, together with the response to the third party and statutory consultee submissions during the original application and the state of relevant scientific knowledge enable the Board to reach complete, precise and definitive conclusions as to the effects of the project on the environment and on the relevant European Sites.

³ https://leap.epa.le/licence-profile/P0035/compliance/return/68a593a3-aacf-ed11-a34e-0050568a2d1a

ł

• -

10 gala

2.1 Planning and Climate Policy Update

Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028

At the time of the initial application (December 2021), the Limerick County Development Plan (CDP) 2010-2016 (as extended) was the relevant statutory local plan for the area. The Limerick CDP has since expired and has now been replaced by the Limerick Development Plan ('Development Plan') 2022-2028, which was published in Draft when the application was originally submitted. The Draft Plan was addressed in the Planning Report submitted with the application, but for completeness, the planning policy context and support in the Limerick Development Plan in relation to the ongoing operation of AAL is presented below.

The Limerick Development Plan came into effect on the 29th July 2022. It sets out Limerick City and County Council's overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the County to 2028 and beyond. It seeks to develop and improve, in a sustainable manner, the social, economic, cultural and environmental assets of the County.

Chapter 5 of the Limerick Development Plan is titled 'A Strong Economy' and highlights the importance of Shannon Estuary to the economy of Limerick. Section 5.11 highlights that;

"The Local Authority recognises that it is crucial for the full potential of the Shannon Estuary, one of Limerick's natural assets to be realised. It is important to encourage existing and new industries around the Estuary to spread the economic impact of these throughout Limerick, generating local employment and providing a more diverse employment base."

Objective ECON 057 (Safeguard Strategic Development locations along the Estuary) is of specific relevance to the subject site as it identifies Aughinish Island as a Strategic Development Location which should be safeguarded for the sustainable growth and development of marine related industry and industrial development;

"It is an objective of the Council to safeguard the Strategic Development Locations at Foynes Port, Foynes Island and Aughinish Island for the sustainable growth and development of marine related industry and industrial development at Askeaton. All proposed developments shall be in accordance with regional and national priorities and the SEA Directive, Birds and Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive, Shellfish Waters Directive, Floods Directive and EIA Directive. Buffer zones shall be incorporated into proposals for developments where necessary to preserve potentially valuable habitats, for example, areas of estuary, shallow bays and inlets, mudflats, lagoon, salt marsh and woodland habitat, which occur at or surrounding these Strategic Development Locations. The extent of such buffer distances shall be established in consultation with relevant statutory bodies. Detailed botanical, faunal and ornithological surveys should be undertaken in relation to proposed developments at these Strategic Development Locations, to fully consider the potential effects of the development and inform how to best avoid significant ecological effects."

[Our Emphasis]

Objective ECON 058 (a) Shannon Foynes Port states;

"It is an objective of the Council to: a) Support the expansion of the Port at Foynes and promote the economic and Industrial development of the Shannon Estuary as a strategic transport, energy and logistics Hub, serving Limerick and the wider region by utilising naturally occurring deep water characteristics and by identifying and safeguarding existing and future strategic transportation links, subject to fulfilling the requirements of the Habitats Directive and the conservation objectives of the Lower River Shannon SAC site."

[Our Emphasis]

The Strategic Development Location of Aughinish Island is detailed in Map 5.5: Map of Aughinish of the Limerick Development Plan (shown in Figure 1).



Figure 1: "Map of Aughinish" - (Source: Map 5.5, Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028)

Climate Policy Update

Following on from the passing of the European Climate Law (EU, 2021), and as part of the EU's "Fit for 55" legislative package where the EU has committed to a domestic reduction of net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% compared to 1990 levels by 2020, the Effort Sharing Regulation has been strengthened, under Regulation (EU) 2023/857 amending Regulation (EU) 2018/842 on binding annual greenhouse gas emission reductions by Member States from 2021 to 2030 contributing to climate action to meet commitments under the Paris Agreements and

Regulation (EU) 2018/1999, with increased ambition by the year 2030. The revised commitment for Ireland is to increase the GHG emission reduction target from 30% to 42% relative to 2005 levels. The EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) market will also have more stringent reductions, under Directive (EU) 2023/959 amending Directive 2003/87/EC establishing a system for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading within the Union, from the previous reduction target of 43% by 2030 compared to 2005 to a 61% reduction by 2030 based on annual reductions of 4.3% from 2024 to 2027 and 4.4% from 2028 compared to the previous annual reduction level of 2.2% per year. AAL falls under the ETS and thus will need to reduce GHG emissions in line with the revised 2030 target. Maritime related emissions are regulated under Regulation (EU) 2015/757 on the monitoring, reporting and verification of greenhouse gas emissions from maritime transport. Regulation (EU) 2015/757 was amended in 2023 by Regulation 2023/957.

In terms of national policy and legislation, recent changes include the publication of the carbon budget programme in November 2021 which comprises three successive 5-year carbon budgets as was outlined in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021. The carbon budget produced 3 sequential budget periods with the third carbon budget in draft format. The carbon budget will be revised where new obligations are imposed under the law of the European Union or international agreements or where there are significant developments in scientific knowledge in relation to climate change. The total emissions allowed under each budget is set out below in Table 1, as well as the average annual reduction for each 5-year period.

Period	Mt CO2eq	Emission Reduction Target
2021-2025	295 Mt CO2eq	Reduction in emissions of 4.8% per annum for the first budget period.
2026-2030	200 Mt CO2eq	Reduction in emissions of 15.3% per annum for the second budget period.
2031-2035 (provisional)	151 Mt CO2eq	Reduction in emissions of 3.5% per annum for the third provisional budget.

Table 1 5-Yeor Corbon Budgets 2021-2025, 2026-2030 and 2031-2025

The Climate Action Plan 2023, published in December 2022, confirmed that the economy-wide carbon budgets are to be supplemented by sectoral emissions ceilings, setting the maximum amount of GHG emissions that are permitted in a given sector of the economy during each five-year carbon budget. The recently agreed Sectoral Emission Ceilings for each Sector are shown in Table 2. It should be noted that 5.25 MtCO_{2eq} of annual emissions reductions are currently unallocated on an economy-wide basis for the second carbon budget period (2026-2030). These will be allocated following a mid-term review and identification of additional abatement measures. The industrial sector emitted approximately 7 MtCO_{2eq} in 2018 and has a ceiling of 4 MtCO_{2eq} in 2030 which is a 35% reduction over this period.

Sector	Baseline (MICO2eq)	Carbon Budgets (MtCD2eq)		carbon Budgets (MtCO2eq)		2030 Emissions	Indicative Emissions % Reduction to Plast Year of
2	2018	2021-2025	2025-2030	(MICO2aq)	2025-2830 Period (Compared to 2018)		
Transport	12	54	37	6	50		
Electricity	10	40	20	3	75		
Built Environment - Residential	7	29	23	4	40		
Built Environment - Commercial	2	7	5	1	45		
Agricuiture	23	106	96	17.25	3		
LULUCF	5	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC		
industry	7	30	24	. 4	35		
Other (F-gases, waste, petroleum	2	9	8	1	50		
Unallocated Savings	<u>]-</u>	7	5	-5.25	1-		
Total	68	n/a	n/a	· · · · · ·			
Legally Binding Carbon Budgets and 2030 Emission Reduction Targets	-	295	200	-	51		

Table 2 Sectoral Emission Celling 2030

The Long-term Climate Action Strategy was published on the 28th April 2023. In relation to electricity the Government commits to the full decarbonisation of the electricity system by 2050. In relation to the EU ETS, the Long-term Climate Action Strategy states that "A strong price signal, as part of a reformed EU ETS, including progressively more restrictive rules on how many allowances will be available within the EU ETS, is expected to drive decarbonisation over the coming decade by increasing the cost to firms in the EU ETS of doing nothing to reduce their emissions" (DOECC, 2023).

The 2023 Climate Action Plan (CAP) (Government of Ireland, 2022) provided a detailed plan for taking decisive action to achieve a 51% reduction in overall greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and setting us on a path to reach net-zero emissions by no later than 2050, as committed to in the Programme for Government and set out in the Climate Act 2021. The plan outlines the current status across key sectors including Electricity, Transport, Built Environment, industry and Agriculture and outlined the various broadscale measures required for each sector to achieve ambitious decarbonisation targets. CAP 2023 also detailed the required governance arrangements for implementation including carbon-proofing of policies and establishment of sectoral emission ceilings and carbon budgets.

In relation to the 2023 Climate Action Plan, under Section 13.3.5 EU Emission Trading System, the 2023 CAP stated:

"The EU ETS is an important measure for reducing industry GHG emissions. The Fit for 55 proposals for the reformed EU ETS will increase emissions reductions in this sector from the current 43% to 61%, in the period 2005 to 2030. Changes include a steeper annual reduction in the emissions ceiling and reductions in free allowances, alongside the

corresponding introduction of a carbon border adjustment mechanism." (2023 CAP, page 155).

The 2024 Climate Action Plan (CAP) (Government of Ireland, December 2023) builds on CAP23 with further specific details on the actions required to achieve a 51% reduction in overall greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and setting Ireland on a path to reach net-zero emissions by no later than 2050, as committed to in the Programme for Government and set out in the Climate Act 2021. There is more specific focus on the roadmap to align with the legally binding economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral ceilings compared to previous climate action plans.

CAP24 states that measures included in CAP21 and CAP23 would lead to a projected emissions reduction in 2030 of 42% which is 9% points below the 2030 target. Thus, CAP24 has set out further policies, measures and actions to close this gap and ensure compliance with the carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings. In relation to the industrial sector, which is the sector most relevant to AAL, one specific additional measure is the development of a work program to implement the National Hydrogen Strategy and ensure appropriate governance arrangements are in place to ensure its delivery.

The Plan envisages that CAP24 in tandem with the Long-term Climate Strategy will set the strategic direction for meeting Ireland's climate targets with CAP24 assisting in delivering the required greenhouse gas emissions abatement to meet the climate targets.

In terms of the unallocated savings gaps first identified in CAP21, CAP24 has set out an approach to deal with these unallocated savings no later than 2025. The approach is focused on exploring emerging technologies where there is evidence of technical/commercial readiness and the deployment of carbon removal technologies.

In the Industry Sector, the key targets identified in CAP24 are:

- Carbon-neutral heating in industry: 50-55% share in 2025 rising to 70-75% by 2030,
- Decrease embodied carbon in construction materials: decrease by 10% embodied carbon for material produced in Ireland in 2025 rising to 30% by 2030,
- Reduce fossil fuel demand through energy efficiency: reduce by 7% in 2025 rising to 10% by 2030,

In terms of specific targets in the Industrial Sector, CAP24 states that:

"It is acknowledged that a number of measures within this chapter (Industry) are reliant on the development of new technologies and approaches, with uncertainty around the development of these technologies being a risk in the delivery of the associated climate goals. However, given the necessity to move away from the use of fossil fuels in industry, it is believed that the deployment of these new technologies is essential in decarbonising the industry sector."

4

(

In summary, CAP24, in tandem with the Long-term Climate Strategy and the carbon budgets and sectoral emission ceilings provides the national context within which all industry will have to operate in the future. AAL's greenhouse gas emissions are increasingly stringently regulated through AAL's mandatory participation in the EU Emissions Trading System, with the national aggregated total of the ETS sector emissions intended to make an important contribution to delivering the required greenhouse gas emissions abatement to meet Ireland's 2030 and 2050 climate targets.

Please see below response to the An Taisce Observation (dated 4th February 2022). We provide a response to the issues raised in the Observation where it is considered appropriate to do so. For clarity, it is not considered that there are any aspects raised in the An Taisce submission that have not already been fully addressed in the documentation submitted as part of the planning application.

3.1 Potential Impacts to Water Quality and the Shannon Estuary and WFD Compliance

An Taisce highlight that the '...potential risks to water quality... are well known and discussed in the EIAR' and remind ABP that the potential impacts on Natura 2000 sites in the vicinity of the site should be fully addressed. An Taisce state that the '... groundwater status in the area of the subject site is classified as 'poor' and 'at risk...' as set out in the Water Framework Directive (WFD).

The issue of groundwater has been thoroughly addressed as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) submitted with the application. In particular, we refer to Chapter 10: Hydrology and Hydrogeology of the EIAR and Section 10.16 of which provides a summary and conclusion as below:

The groundwater aquifer beneath the majority of the BRDA site is a locally important aquifer while the eastern sector of the BRDA, the SCDC and the Borrow Pit Extension areas overlie a regionally important groundwater aquifer. However, within the Application Site the groundwater aquifers are largely subject to soline intrusion and do not have a significant resource potential for the wider area.

The Proposed Development design measures were accounted for in an assessment of initial impacts and effects. Where additional mitigation measures could be incorporated to reduce the initial impacts and effects further, these were identified and included in an assessment of residual impacts and effects.

in summary, the significance of residual effects on water (and on human health from water) resulting from the different potential sources of impact are predicted to be no greater than <u>slight adverse</u> and, therefore, <u>not significant</u> in terms of this assessment.'

An Taisce further states that ABP should ensure that a full assessment of the proposal is provided as it relates to Article 4 of the WFD and highlights a number of legal cases in this regard. Specifically, An Taisce request consideration of whether the proposed development may, within the context of Article 4 of the WFD, "jeopardise the attainment of good surface or ground water status or of good ecological potential and good surface or ground water chemical status".

The WFD status of groundwater bodies within 2 kilometres (km) of the proposed development (i.e. the 'study area' for Chapter 10 of the EIAR) are detailed in Section 10.6.10.3 and Figure 10.23 of the EIAR. The WFD status of surface water bodies are detailed in Section 6.8.7 of the NIS. The location of surface water features within the study area are presented in Figures 10.8 and 10.9 of the EIAR. The internationally designated sites within the study area are also presented on Figure 10.8 of the EIAR. Consideration of whether the local water features form potential receptors for

the proposed development is presented in Section 10.7 of the EIAR. Table 10.2: Magnitude of Impact and Typical Descriptions of the EIAR details there is deemed to be a 'High' magnitude of change where 'Pollution results in deterioration in the status of a water body, failure to meet good status objectives defined by the Water Framework Directive, or failure of a protected drinking water area to meet its objectives as defined by the Water Framework Directive.'

The EIAR and NIS both reference the WFD in numerous places (eg: Sections 10.4.1, 10.4.2 and Table 2 of the EIAR and Sections 6.8.3 and 6.8.7 of the NIS) as part of the overall legislative context and provides sufficient information in clear format to enable ABP to consider and assess the development in light of the WFD. However, for the assistance of ABP the position is reiterated below, including, for convenience, the WFD status of the water bodies within the study area summarised in Table 3 of this response document.

	La series and the series of	WPD Overall	WFD Rust
Waterbody Namelio	WPD Code	Skilus	Status .
Surface Water			
Glenbane West Stream_010	IE_SH_24G060100	Poor	Review
Aharcronane_020	IE_SH_24A010900	Poor	At risk
Shanagolden Steam_010	IE_SH_24S022000	Poor	At risk
Foynes_010	IE_SH_24F230770	Poor	Review
Transitional Water			
Lower Shannon Estuary	IE_SH_060_0300	Good	Not at risk
Foynes Harbour	IE_SH_060_0350	Good*	Review
Poulaweala Lough / Quayfield Lough	IE_SH_060_0400	Unassigned	Review
Groundwater			
Industrial Facility (P0035-04)	IE_SH_G_252	Poor	At risk
Askeaton	IE SH G 010	Good	Not at risk
Ballylongford	IE_SH_G_030	Good	At risk
Shanagolden	IE_SH_G_203	Good	Not at risk

Table 3 - WFD Status of Waterbodies within 2 km (i.e. the study area for Chapter 10) of the Proposed Development (based on 2016 – 2021 classification data unless specified otherwise). WFD information derived from <u>https://gis.epa.le/EPAMaps/Water</u>

Status based on 2013-2018 classification

The legislation, guidance and policies which have been used to guide Chapter 10 of the EIAR are outlined in Section 10.4 and specifically notes that the WFD has been considered as part of the assessment. The potential impacts and associated effects from the construction, operation of the proposal on surface water and groundwater are listed, discussed and assessed in Section 10.9 of the EIAR. Table 10.10 subsequently provides an evaluation of their initial impacts and effect significance. A summary of the sources of impact, predicted magnitudes of residual impact (accounting for the Proposed Development design and additional mitigation) and subsequent residual effect significance is presented in Table 10.11. These tables are replicated in Appendix A for information.

(

In all cases the residual effect is deemed to be <u>Not Significant and not greater than Slight</u>. The significance of an effect classified as 'slight' is defined in Table 10.2 of the EIAR and is described as "an effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment <u>without affecting its sensitivities</u>". In the context of Article 4 of the WFD, a change in the sensitivity of the water environment would likely constitute a change in the 'status' of the waterbody (for example, for adverse effects this may be a status change from 'high' to 'good'). However, as both the initial and residual effects are deemed to be Not Significant and not greater than Slight, then no adverse change to the local WFD status is expected due to the proposed development.

An Taisce also highlights that 'The board should therefore evaluate if the proposal has the potential to affect the achievement of compliance objectives of the water-dependent Natura 2000 sites...'. In this regard we refer ABP to Chapter 6: Biodiversity of the EIAR and the Natura Impact Statement (NIS) submitted as part of the application. In conjunction with Chapter 10: Hydrology and Hydrogeology, there has been a full consideration of the potential for direct, indirect and cumulative Impacts upon groundwater and surface-water features, including designated sites and their conservation objectives.

Comprehensive information is provided describing the baseline environmental conditions, underlying geology and the groundwater and surface water connections. Information is presented describing the intensive monitoring regimen and the history of compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) licence conditions for the operational facility. Section 5.8.3 of the NIS sets out the relevant legislation related to discharges from the AAL facility and Sections 6.8 and 6.9 describe the emissions to surface water, transitional water and the marine environment and the groundwater and geological conditions respectively. The potential of the project to result in direct, indirect or cumulative impacts on groundwater and surface water are fully assessed in the NIS.

In this regard, the NIS states that 'It has been objectively concluded that the proposed development will not adversely affect the integrity of any Natura 2000 site, and there is no reasonable scientific doubt in relation to this conclusion.'

3.2 Disaster Risks and Climate Change

An Taisce refer to the bauxite containment failure in Ajka, Hungary in 2010 as an example to illustrate that 'disaster risks' or a breach in containment need to be considered as part of the EIAR. In relation to the events that occurred in Hungary, we refer ABP to our previous submission on third party observations (dated 6th July 2022 in response to Environmental Trust Ireland) which clarifies that the method of bauxite storage at AAL is entirely different to that which was carried out in Hungary and that the system employed in AAL for bauxite residue disposal is in accordance with the Best Available Technology (BAT) with EU BREF Management of Waste from Extractive Industries.

An Taisce highlights that Chapter 16: Major Accidents and Disasters of the EIAR addresses numerous hazards in relation to potential failure of containment on site and acknowledges that climate relates risks are addressed but considers that this risk specifically should be considered across every EIAR chapter.

..

(

The EIAR considers those effects that are planned or reasonably foreseen as likely or probable and those which can be reasonably foreseen to be an inevitable consequence of the normal construction and operation of the project. This approach is in accordance with the Draft Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports, (EPA 2017), and Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports, (EPA 2022).

The assessment in Chapter 16: Major Accidents and Disasters of the EIAR was undertaken to address unforeseen and unplanned events. This assessment was carried out in accordance with Annex IV, Paragraph 8 of the EIA Directive. The purpose of the assessment was to assess the vulnerability of the Proposed Development to potential major accidents and/or disasters, the potential to cause major accidents and/or disasters, and to identify control and/or emergency preparedness measures which are in place, or that may need to be implemented, to prevent or mitigate the likely significant adverse effects.

We do not agree that the occurrence of two or more hazards simultaneously was not assessed. Wherever appropriate, simultaneous occurrence of hazard events was considered. By way of example, the potential tidal surge or wave event scenario considered climate change leading to increase sea level, as well as increasing magnitude and frequency of storm events, (Section 16.8.2.3 of the EIAR refers). The EIAR has fully considered the matters raised by An Taisce above in line with the appropriate EPA guidance.

An Taisce raises concerns regarding flood risk assessment for the site and states that CFRAM flood risk assessment mapping is not available for the site. We can confirm that Flood Risk Assessment for the site and subject proposal have been fully assessed as part of the planning application. We refer ABP to Chapter 10: Hydrology and Hydrogeology of the EIAR and particularly Section 10.6.7 which highlights that there are no recorded past flood events for the site and that the BRDA and surrounding catchment is defended by the OPW constructed flood tidal defence berm (FTDB). The FTDB is monitored and maintained and various repairs and improvement works have been conducted.

Under the CFRAM programme the OPW identified the western side of the Robertstown River (Foynes) as an area of potentially significant flood risk (referred to as an Area for Further Assessment, or 'AFA') and the CFRAM flood mapping published by the OPW provides predicted flood extents on the western side of the Robertstown River. The CFRAM programme did not identify Aughinish Island as an area of potentially significant flood risk (AFA) and no flood extents are indicated for the site on the CFRAM flood mapping. Additional 'National Coastal Flood Hazard Mapping' has been published by the OPW (2021), which indicates the extent of land that might experience coastal flooding for a worst-case scenario where flood defences are not considered. This coastal flood hazard mapping provides flood extents for Aughinish Island; however, this data does not change the outcome of the assessment of flood risk for the site given flood protection provided by the existing FTDB. Furthermore, Chapter 16 of the EIAR provides an assessment of the vulnerability of the proposed development to major accidents and/or disasters, including the potential for extreme storm, tidal surge and wave events.

3.3 Appropriate Assessment and Habitats Directive Legal Requirements

The An Taisce submission in this regard refers to the Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Habitats Directive requirements. They remind ABP of their requirements under law and submit that the Board satisfy themselves that no reasonable scientific doubt remain as to the absence of lasting adverse impacts on the integrity of any European conservation site.

An NIS was prepared by Ecology Ireland Ltd., in support of the planning application. As outlined in Section 3.1 above, the NIS objectively concluded that the proposed development will not adversely impact on any Natura 2000 site, citing no reasonable scientific doubt with regard to that conclusion.

We would welcome ABP's careful consideration of the NIS and are satisfied that they are aware of the legislative framework that applies as identified in the observation.

3.4 Assessment of Long-Term Plan

An Taisce highlights that that the long-term plan, beyond the extended production lifetime, should be established and assessed against Ireland's legal obligations, particularly with regard to Natura 2000 sites and water quality.

All aspects of the proposed development, including the closure plan and post-closure monitoring are described and assessed as part of the application. It is also noted that under Condition No. 10 of the EPA licence (IEL P0035-07), AAL are required to have an approved plan in place for the orderly closure, decommissioning and aftercare of the facility. This plan is called the Closure, Restoration and Aftercare Management Plan (CRAMP) and includes the BRDA and borrow pit. The most recently approved CRAMP update was conducted by AAL during 2019, as part of the licence review for IEL P0035-07. The CRAMP has taken account of flooding and storm events, both of which account for climate change. This plan was considered as part of the NIS and is also detailed in the Engineering Design Report: BRDA Raise Development (Appendix A of the EIAR) and accounts for climate change in the design.



4.0 Conclusion

2

The proposed development is wholly compliant with regard to National, Regional and Local planning policy and will not adversely impact the amenities of the area nor property in the vicinity of the facility, and would be acceptable in terms of environmental and residential amenity impacts.

The scientific data presented in the EIAR and NIS in relation to the environmental background and impact remains fully relevant to enable ABP to consider the proposal; there have been no changes to the proposed development since ABP's decision to grant permission in August 2022. The description of the proposed development remains exactly as applied for in the original application under ABP-312146-21 and the strong support for the proposal within the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 (as adopted in July 2022) remains in place.

Having regard to the An Taisce observation it is submitted that any issues raised have already been fully addressed to date in the EIAR and NIS submitted with the application and further addressed in the response provided.

The proposed development will assist in the long-term economic sustainability of AAL, an operator of strategic importance in the Region. We contend, therefore, that the proposal should be granted Planning Permission in the interests of the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

Yours Sincerely,

Stephen Barnett

Stephen Barrett Director Tom Phillips + Associates

·` ('

Appendix A: Table 10.10 (Evaluation of Initial Impacts and their Significance) and 10.11 (Evaluation of predicted Residual Impacts and their Effect Significance) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report

Project Phase	Receptor	Sensitivity	Source of impact/Description of Change*	Impact Magnitude*	Level of Effect
	Groundwater	Medium	Mobilisation of leachate or activities impacting water quality or use, e.g., seepage, leaks and spills caused by bauxite residue and/or salt cake within the BRDA/SCDC or the unmanaged spillage of fuels or lubricants from plant or vehicles within the BRDA area or Borrow Pit sites.	Low (adverse), direct, long term, reversible (BRDA and SCDC) Negligible (adverse) indirect, medium term, reversible (Borrow Pit sites)	Slight Slight
Construction and			Changes in groundwater flows or levels within the Borrow Pit sites.	Negligible (adverse), direct, medium term, reversible	Slight
Operational	Surface Water	High	Mobilisation of leachate or activities impacting water quality or use, e.g., seepage, leaks and spills caused by bauxite residue and/or sait cake within the BRDA/SCDC or the unmanaged spillage of fuels or lubricants from plant or vehicles within the BRDA area or Borrow Pit sites.	Low (adverse), indirect, long term, reversible	Slight
	Human water users	High	Mobilisation of leachate or activities impacting water quality or use (seepage, leaks and spills caused by bauxite residue and/or salt cake or the unmanaged spillage of fuels or lubricants from plant or vehicles)	Negligible (adverse), indirect, long term, reversible	Slight

Table 10.10: Evaluation of Initial Impacts and their Effect Significance

Environmental impact Assessment Report Proposed BRDA Raise - Aughinish, Co. Limerick

~

Project Phase	Receptor	Sensitivity	Source of impact/Description of Change*	Impact Magnitude*	Level of Effect
	Groundwater	Medium	Mobilisation of leachate or activities impacting water quality or use during closure activities, e.g., seepage, leaks and spills caused by bauxite residue and/or salt cake within the BRDA/SCDC or the unmanaged spillage of fuels or lubricants from plant or vehicles within the BRDA area or Borrow Pit sites.	Low (adverse), direct, long term, reversible (BRDA and SCDC) Negligible (adverse) direct, medium term, reversible (Borrow Pit sites)	Slight Slight
Closure			Changes in groundwater quality after closure of the BRDA/SCDC, I.e., following restoration at Stage 16.	Low (beneficial), direct, permanent, reversible (BRDA and SCDC)	Slight
			Changes in groundwater flows or levels within the Borrow Pit sites.	Negligible (beneficial), direct, permanent, reversible	Slight
					_

--. ·***

Project Phase	Receptor	Sensitivity	Source of Impact/Description of Change*	Impact Magnitude*	Level of Effect
*****	Surface Water	High	Mobilisation of leachate or activities impacting water quality or use, e.g., seepage, leaks and spills caused by bauxite residue and/or salt cake within the BRDA/SCDC or the unmanaged spillage of fuels or lubricants from plant or vehicles within the BRDA	Low (adverse), indirect, long term, reversible (BRDA and SCDC)	Slight
			area or Borrow Pit sites.	Low (beneficial) Indirect, permanent, reversible (Borrow Pit sites)	Slight
			Changes in surface water quality after closure of the BRDA/SCDC, i.e., following restoration at Stage 16.	Low (beneficial), direct, permanent, reversible (BRDA and SCDC)	Slight
	Human water users	High	Mobilisation of leachate or activitles impacting water quality or use, e.g., seepage, leaks and spills caused by bauxite residue and/or salt cake within the BRDA/SCDC or the unmanaged spillage of fuels or lubricants from plant or vehicles within the BRDA area or Borrow Pit sites, either during closure activities or post-closure	Negligible (beneficial), indirect, permanent, reversible	Slight

* Taking account of the Proposed Development Design

Environmental Impect Assessment Report Proposed BRDA Rulss - Aughinish, Co. Limerisk

e.

THE REPORT 10-104

IN THE SECOND

1 -

4

Project Phase	Receptor (importance)	Potential Source of Impact	Direct or Indirect	Duration*	Reversible or Irreversible	Summery of Mitigation (Proposed Development Design and Additional Mitigation)	Residual Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect Significance
Construction and Operational	Groundwater	Mobilisation of leachate or activities impacting water quality or use, e.g., seepage, leaks and spills caused by bauxite residue and/or salt cake within the BRDA/SCDC or the unmanaged spillage of fuels or lubricants from plant or vehicles within the BRDA area or Borrow Pit sites.	Direct	Long term	Reversible	Good practice pollution prevention measures and regular plant and equipment maintenance procedures. Waste management procedures.	Negligible	Not Significant / Slight
		Changes in groundwater flows or levels within the Borrow Pit sites	Direct	Permanent	Reversible	Good practice pollution prevention measures and regular plant and equipment maintenance procedures. Waste management procedures.	Negligible	Not Significant / Slight

Table 10.11: Evaluation of Predicted Residual Impacts and their Effect Significance

Environmental Impact Assessment Report Proposed BRDA Reise – Aughtrish, Co. Limerick

с. С

TOM PHILLIPS + ASSOCIATES

TOWN PLANNING CONSULTANTS

*

Project Phase	Receptor (Importance)	Potential Source of Impact	Direct or Indirect	Duration*	Reversible or irraversible	Summary of Mitigation (Proposed Development Design and Additional Mitigation)	Residual Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect Significance
	Surface Water	Mobilisation of leachate or activities impacting water quality or use, e.g., seepage, leaks and spills caused by bauxite residue and/or salt cake within the BRDA/SCDC or the unmanaged spillage of fuels or lubricants from plant or vehicles within the BRDA area or Borrow Pit sites.	Indirect	Long term	Reversible	Good practice pollution prevention measures and regular plant and equipment maintenance procedures. Waste management procedures.	Negligible	Not Significant / Slight

Environmental Impact Assessment Report Proposed BRDA Raise – Aughinish, Co. Umericic

. .

.

	Receptor Importance)	Potential Source of Impact	Direct or Indirect	Duration*	Reversible or Irreversible	Summery of Mitigation (Proposed Development Design and Additional Mitigation)	Residual Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect Significance
Huus	luman water sers	Mobilisation of leachate or activities impacting water quality or use, e.g., seepage, leaks and spills caused by bauxite residue and/or salt cake within the BRDA/SCDC or the unmanaged spillage of fuels or lubricants from plant or vehicles within the BRDA area or Borrow Pit sites.	Indirect	Long term	Reversible	Good practice pollution prevention measures and regular plant and equipment maintenance procedures. Waste management procedures.	Negligible	Not Significant / Slight

Environmental Impact Assessment Report Proposed BRDA Relie - Aughinish, Co. Umerick

्र ्र 4

à,

Project Phase	Receptor (importance)	Potential Source of Impact	Direct or Indirect	Duration*	Reversible or Irreversible	Summary of Mitigation (Proposed Development Design and Additional Mitigation)	Residual Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect Significance
Closure	Groundwater	Mobilisation of leachate or activities impacting water quality or use, e.g., seepage, leaks and spills caused by bauxite residue and/or salt cake within the BRDA/SCDC or the unmanaged spillage of fuels or lubricants from plant or vehicles within the BRDA area or Borrow Pit sites,	Direct	Long term (BRDA and SCDC site) Medium term (Borrow Pit site)	Reversible	Good practice pollution prevention measures and regular plant and equipment maintenance procedures. Waste management procedures. Regular aftercare monitoring and inspection. Good closure practice.	Negligible	Not Significant / Slight
		Changes in groundwater quality after closure of the BRDA/SCDC, i.e., following restoration at Stage 16	Direct	Permanent	Reversible	Good practice pollution prevention measures, closure design, implementation and regular plant and equipment maintenance procedures. Waste management procedures. Regular aftercare monitoring and inspection. Good closure practice.	Negligible	Not Significant / Slight

Environmental Impact Assessment Report Proposal BRDA Raise - Aughinish, Co. Umarick

10-112

, n B

.

	1	T				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
Project Phase	Receptor (Importance)	Potential Source of Impact	Direct or Indirect	Duration*	Reversible or Irreversible	Summary of Mitigation (Proposed Davelopment Design and Additional Mitigation)	Residual Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect Significance	
	Surface Water	Mobilisation of leachate or activities impacting water quality or use, e.g., seepage, leaks and splils caused by bauxite residue and/or salt cake within the BRDA/SCDC or the unmanaged spillage of fuels or lubricants from plant or vehicles within the BRDA area or Borrow Pit sites.	Indirect	Long term	Reversible	Good practice pollution prevention measures and regular plant and equipment maintenance procedures. Waste management procedures. Regular aftercare monitoring and inspection. Good closure practice.	Negligible	Not Significant / Slight	
	Surface Water	Changes in surface water quality after closure of the BRDA/SCDC, i.e., following restoration at Stage 16	Indirect	Long term	Reversible	Good practice pollution prevention measures and regular plant and equipment maintenance procedures. Waste management procedures. Regular aftercare monitoring and inspection. Good closure practice.	Negligible	Not Significant / Slight	

Environmental Impact Assessment Report Proposed BRDA Raise - Aughinish, Co. Limerick

. سامنی

*

TOM PHILUPS + ASSOCIATES

TOWN PLANNING CONSULTANTS

Project Phase	Receptor (importance)	Potential Source of Impact	Direct or Indirect	Duration*	Reversible ar irrevarsible	Summary of Mitigation (Proposed Development Design and Additional Mitigation)	Residual Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect Significance
	Human water users	Mobilisation of leachate or activities impacting water quality or use, e.g., seepage, leaks and spills caused by bauxite residue and/or salt cake within the BRDA/SCDC or the unmanaged spillage of fuels or lubricants from plant or vehicles within the BRDA area or Borrow Pit sites.	Indirect	Long term	Reversible	Good practice pollution prevention measures and regular plant and equipment maintenance procedures. Waste management procedures. Regular aftercare monitoring and inspection. Good closure practice.	Negligible	Not Significant/ Slight

* Maximum duration without intervention

Environmental Impact Assessment Report Proposed BRDA Rake – Aughinish, Co. Limerick

W ...

From:	EIAPlanning
To:	An Bord Pleanaia: 1.Sherry@pleanaia.je
Subject:	FW: ABP-312146-21 Expansion at Aughinish Alumina Limited at Aughinish Island, Askeaton, Co. Limerick
Date:	Tuesday 24 May 2022 16:51:14
Attachments:	scan.pdf image002.png image005.png image006.png
Importance:	High

Your Ref: ABP-312146-21 An Bord Pleanala

Notification of Planning Application: Aughinish Alumina Ltd, Aughinish Island, Askeaton, Co. Limerick

Dear Ms Sherry,

I refer to your correspondence received on 27th April 2022 requesting comments from the Agency on the planning application and Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for the above referenced development. In accordance with Section 87(1F) of the EPA Act 1992 as amended (hereafter referred to as the EPA Act), the Agency makes the following observations.

Aughinish Alumina Limited was granted an Industrial Emissions (IE) Licence Register No. P0035-07 on 28th September 2021 for an installation located at Aughinish East, Aughinish West, Island Mac Teige, Glenbane West, and Fawnamore, Askeaton, Co. Limerick. This licence is currently under review and the licence review application (Register No. P0035-08) was received by the Agency on 28th January 2022 for the following activities:

Activity	Hain Class 2	Activity Description (Regulated Activity)	Name (EPA Act Industry Surror)
5.13 (e)	Yes	The production of inorganic chemicals, such as non-metals, metal oxides or other inorganic compounds such as calcium carbide, silicon, silicon carbide (production means the production on an industrial scale by chemical or biological processing)	Chemicals
2.1	No	Combustion of fuels in installations with a total rated thermal input of 50 MW or more.	Energy
11.1	No	The recovery or disposal of waste in a facility, within the meaning of the Act of 1996, which facility is connected or associated with another activity specified in this Schedule in respect of which a licence or revised licence under Part IV is in force or In respect of which a licence under the said Part is or will be required.	Waste

The licence review application (Register No. P0035-08) may need to be updated to accommodate the changes proposed as part of the planning application.

The licence review application was accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). The EIAR was notified by the Agency to An Bord Pleanala on 1st February 2022 in correspondence under the licence review application. A response has not been received to date. The licence review application and EIAR may be viewed on the Agency's website <u>www.epa.ie.</u>

It is noted that the planning application was accompanied by an EIAR. The EIAR submitted with the licence review application appears to be the same EIAR submitted with the planning application.

The Agency has already determined that the licence review application must be made subject to

an EIA as respects the matters that come within the functions of the Agency in accordance with Section 83(2A) and Section 87(1G)(a) of the EPA Act (see EIA Screening Determination dated 14^{th} April 2022 on <u>A AA CTEPE</u>). Should the applicant wish to include the changes proposed in the planning application as part of the licence review application, the applicant will be required to submit the associated EIAR to the Agency as part of the licence review application (if it has not already been submitted). This EIAR will be considered by the Agency as part of its assessment for the purposes of EIA and further consultation with the planning authority will be undertaken. Please note that you will be requested to provide the documentation relating to the EIA you have carried out to the Agency under Section 173A(4) of the Planning and Development Act

2000 as amended

The licence review application is currently under assessment. All matters to do with emissions to the environment from the activities proposed, the licence review application documentation and EIAR will be considered and assessed by the Agency.

Where the Agency is of the opinion that the activities, as proposed, cannot be carried on, or cannot be effectively regulated under a licence then the Agency cannot grant a licence for such an activity. Should the Agency decide to grant a licence in respect of the activity, as proposed, it will incorporate conditions that will ensure that appropriate National and EU standards are applied, and that Best Available Techniques (BAT) will be used in the carrying on of the activities.

Finally, please note that in accordance with Section 87(1D)(d) of the EPA Act, the Agency cannot issue a Proposed Determination on a licence review 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 eloplanning field in a second contact eloplanning field in a second contact eloplanning field in a second contact second contact

Yours faithfully, Environmental Licencing Programme

Environariontal Extension & Programme Office of Environmental Sustainability An Clorium Cheadonu Comhanaol Officium Isbhuarainteacht Chomtanaol



⁽⁻²) please refer to the EU (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control) Regulations 2012 (S.I. No. 282 of 2012)

From: Jennifer Sherry <J.Sherry@pleanala.ie> Sent: Wednesday 27 April 2022 15:59 To: EIAPlanning <eiaplanning@epa.ie> Subject: ABP-312146-21 Expansion at Aughinish Alumina Limited at Aughinish Island, Askeaton, Co. Limerick Importance: High

To whom may concern,

Please see the attached letter from An Bord Pleanála requesting observations from the Environmental Protection Agency in relation to a strategic infrastructure development ABP-312146-21.

A hard copy has issued by post.

Kind regards, Jennifer

Jennifer Sherry Executive Officer Strategic Infrastructure Development An Bord Pleanála 64 Mariborough Street Dublin 1 D01 V902 Teil: 01-8737266 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

Smaoinigh ar an timpeallacht sula ndéanann tú an ríomhphost seo a phriontáil.

Please consider the environment before printing this mail.

Fógra Rúin: Tá an ríomhphost seo agus aon chomhaid atá nasctha leis faoi rún agus dírithe amháin don seolaí. Má bhfuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí earráid, déan teagmháil le bainisteoir an chórais.

Tabhair faoi deara led thoil: aon tuairimí nochtaithe san ríomhphost seo is iad tuairimí an tseoltóra féin agus níi sé intuigthe gurb iad tuairimí An Bhoird Pleanála nó go gcloíonn siad le polasaithe ráite an Bhoird.

Confidentiality Notice: This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the addressee. If you have received this email in error please notify the system manager.

Please Note: any views expressed in this email are those of the individual sender and may not necessarily reflect the views or accord with the stated policies of An Bord Pleanála.

Smaoinigh ar an timpeal'acht sula ndéanann tú an ríomhphost seo a phriontáil. Please consider the Environment before printing this mail.