

Comhairle
Chondae
Chill Dara
Naomh Mhuire
An Nás



Kildare
County
Council
St. Mary's
Naas

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This matter is being dealt with by:

Date: 19th of February, 2003

Your Ref:

Our Ref:

Waterways Ireland
57 Belmore St
Enniskillen
Co. Fermanagh

RE: PROPOSAL TO ABSTRACT WATER FROM THE RIVER BARROW

Dear Sir/Madam,

You may have received a notice previously from Kildare County Council in relation to their proposal to abstract water from the River Barrow. Due to the commencement of certain sections of the Planning and Development Act 2000, Kildare County Council has decided to recommence the notification procedure for the proposed abstraction to ensure compliance with the new Act. If you objected during the first notification period and still wish to object you must object again to ensure the validity of your objection. Should you wish to object to the proposal please submit your objection and the grounds thereof in accordance with the attached notice. The Council have taken this opportunity to withdraw the original Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposal and include additional information obtained in a new EIS. The following letter and attached notice explains the proposal.

As part of the National Development Plan, Kildare County Council proposes to abstract up to 40,000 m³ per day of water from the River Barrow at a place named Srowland, approximately 3 km north of Athy, County Kildare for the purpose of augmenting and improving public water supplies in the region of South, West and Mid-Kildare. This quantity, 40,000 m³ per day, represents approximately 2.2% of the average flow in the river at the proposed abstraction point or 1.1% of the average flow in the river at Graiguenamanagh, (which is the furthest flow gauging station downstream). When compared to the average summer low flow, the proposed abstraction is less than 11.8% of the flow at the proposed abstraction point and less than 6.6% of the flow at Graiguenamanagh. The figures quoted in the attached notice represent a condition called the Dry Weather Flow (DWF), which is interpreted as meaning the lowest flow expected to occur *once in fifty years*. When compared to the DWF the abstraction represents approximately 29% of the flow at the abstraction point or 12.9% of the flow at Graiguenamanagh.

An official notice to the navigation authority regarding the proposed abstraction is attached. This letter and the attached notice shall comprise notice under section 21(3) of the Water Supplies Act 1942.

The Council has carried out an extensive search of people who may be affected by the abstraction so as to notify them of the proposal. This search includes landowners along the river from the point of abstraction to the tidal limit at St. Mullins and other persons who may be affected by the proposed abstraction.

The results of the search are contained in a document called 'The Book Of Reference' which, along with associated drawings and the Proposal are available for inspection at the council offices in Naas and the library in Athy during normal working hours, as detailed on the attached notice. Particulars of ancillary operations are included in the proposal, a copy of which is available for inspection with the Book of Reference.

The council also prepared an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project. This involved examining the existing environment of the river, assessing the impact that the proposed development will have and identifying mitigation measures to ensure the environment is protected. The completed Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is available for inspection at the venues mentioned previously and for purchase at the council offices in Naas.

A Public Information Day will be arranged at the offices of Athy Community Library, Emily Square, Athy, County Kildare from 12 noon to 8:00 pm on 6th of March 2003. Plans and particulars of the proposed development and the associated Environmental Impact Statement will be on display at this location for the public information day and staff will be in attendance to explain the proposals. Notices will also be published in the national press inviting the general public to make submissions and take part in the planning process.

Under the terms of the Water Supplies Act 1942, the objection of a navigation authority to the proposed abstraction should take the form of an interference notice. The procedure for submitting same is detailed in the attached navigation authority notice. The interference notice, and reasons thereof, must reach The Director Of Services, Housing and Water Services, Kildare County Council, St. Mary's, Naas, County Kildare, not later than 5pm on Wednesday the 12th March 2003.

Kildare County Council takes this opportunity to assure you of their best intentions in promoting orderly growth while safeguarding the environment and invite you to take part in the process.

Yours sincerely,



A.C. Talbot
County Secretary
Kildare County Council