



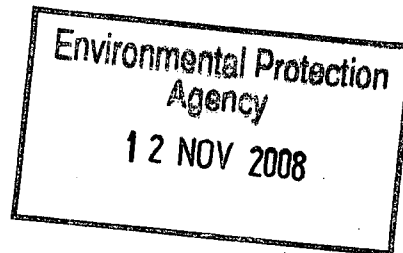
Comhshaol, Oidhreacht agus Rialtas Áitiúil
Environment, Heritage and Local Government



PO849-01

11 November 2008

Our Ref: E2008/61
Your Ref: PO849-01



Ms Josephine Kennedy
Office of Climate, Licensing & Resource Use
EPA
Johnstown Castle Estate
Co. Wexford

**Re: IPPC Licence Application – Michael O'Shea, The Rushes Pig Unit, Ballickmoyler,
Co. Laois**

A Chara,

We refer to the application for a waste licence at the above-mentioned location. Outlined below are the nature conservation recommendations of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

The location of the proposed development is situated less than 3 kilometres from the River Barrow and River Nore Special Area of Conservation (SAC) site code no. (2162). The Fushoge River is designated as part of this site. A site synopsis for this site can be viewed at <http://www.npws.ie/en/media/Media,4175,en.pdf>. The site drains to the Dinin River, a tributary of the River Nore, which is also part of the River Barrow and River Nore Special Area of Conservation (SAC) site code no. (2162).

The EIS states that 'Animal manure produced in the existing facility is distributed to local farmers in response to their demand and for use on their farmland. The manure that will be produced by animals to be housed in the proposed development would be similarly distributed. Local demand for pig manure is buoyant' The output of pig manure from the site will be 14,768m³ per year.

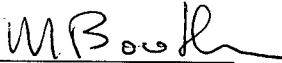
No assessment has been made on the impact of spreading 14,768m³ per year of pig manure locally within the catchment of the River Barrow and River Nore Special Area of Conservation (SAC) site code no. (2162) on the conservation objectives of the cSAC. Therefore, in accordance with Regulation 32(1) of the European Communities' (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997 as amended in 2005, an appropriate assessment of the



environmental implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives must be undertaken. Furthermore, in order to enhance biodiversity in the area any landscaping plantation of the site should be with native Irish tree species of Irish provenance.

It should also be noted that the Planning Application associated with this licence and referred to by you in your letter of 4 June, Planning Ref.: 08/712 appears to have been deemed incomplete by Laois County Council. Any licence should be subject to planning permission being granted by Laois County Council.

Mise le meas



Mary Boothman
Development Applications Unit

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