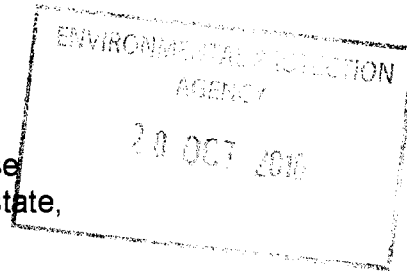




Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

Josephine Kennedy
Programme Officer
Office of Climate, Licensing and Resource Use
EPA HQ, PO Box 3000, Johnstown Castle Estate,
Co. Wexford.



Your Reference – W0254-01

Our Reference – BB/DD/01

October 18th, 2010

Re: Waste Licence Application re. Cemex Ltd. Walshestown, Naas Co. Kildare.

Dear Ms. Kennedy,


Please find IFI Blackrock's comments outlined below regarding the additional information referred on September 29th in respect of the above waste licence application:

- The site is located in the catchment of the Morrell River which provides spawning habitat for a key population of Atlantic salmon in its lower reaches in addition to supporting significant populations of Brown trout throughout. The River Liffey and several of its tributaries (including the Morrell) are exceptional in the area in supporting Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*, listed under Annex II and V of the EU Habitats Directive) and Sea trout in addition to resident Brown trout (both *Salmo trutta*) populations. This highlights the sensitivity of local watercourses and the Liffey catchment in general. The river system is regarded as a very important fishery. Fish populations in this system are protected through routine fisheries and water quality management measures. Fishery habitat is regarded as particularly good for all salmonid life stages throughout much of the Liffey system (particularly in the Morrell) and must be protected at all times. The importance of the Morrell to the overall fisheries productivity in the Liffey Catchment cannot be overstated. This tributary also supports populations of the Freshwater Crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*) and Lamprey (*Lampetra* sp.) species listed under Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive. Only clean, uncontaminated water should leave the site and drain to the river network. Preventing any polluting matter from entering this important river system must be a key component of the proposal.

- As with any development, all measures necessary should be taken to ensure comprehensive protection of local aquatic ecological integrity, in the first place by complete impact avoidance and only as a secondary approach through mitigation by reduction and remedy. Only clean, uncontaminated surface waters must be permitted to discharge to the surface water network in the area so that the ecological integrity of the system is protected (as per EIS Section 10.8.1).
- Ground preparation and associated construction works, including large-scale topographic alteration, importation of waste materials and the creation of roads and buildings (as proposed), have significant potential to cause the release of sediments and various pollutants into surrounding watercourses. Pollution of the adjacent freshwaters from poor on-site construction practices could have a significantly negative impact on the fauna and flora of this surface water system. A comprehensive and integrated approach for achieving stream protection during construction and operation (in line with international best practice) should be implemented.
- Best available technology (BAT) mitigation measures should be implemented to ensure protection of the surface water and ground water system during both construction and operational programmes. The implementation of a SUDS system (as advocated in the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study) on the site is highly desirable both in the short and long term. The maintenance of any attenuation structures (e.g. de-silting operations) must not result in the release of contaminated water to the surface water network. Again and in all cases, it is essential that only clean and uncontaminated surface water should be discharged from the landfill site to the local surface water network. In relation to EIS Section 7.7, it must be highlighted that the release of any leachate into the local surface and groundwater system is unacceptable and must not be permitted to happen under any circumstances.
- On-site attenuation ponds should allow for the settlement of fine/particulate materials. Online monitoring and telemetry must provide failsafe and alarm-enabled mechanisms on both foul and surface water discharges in order to protect receiving waters. Class I petrol / oil interception, silt and grit trapping and hydro-brake controls should be in place on surface water discharges to protect receiving freshwaters. Silt fencing (or similar operation) of discharge streams should also be implemented during the construction phase.

- The discharge of clean surface waters to the Morrell River system and any construction works associated with the proposed development must in no way impact on the passage of salmonids thereby contravening Section 173 of the Fisheries (Consolidation) Act 1959, as amended.
- It is recommended that the "Requirements for the Protection of Fisheries Habitat during Construction and Development Works at River Sites" (<http://www.fishingireland.net>) be consulted when undertaking any works on this site, particularly in the vicinity of surface water features.
- It is respectfully highlighted that appropriate environmental protection measures are the responsibility of the developer and contractor involved, and all works are subject to the provision of the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act 1977 (as amended) and the Fisheries (Consolidation) Act 1959 (as amended).

Yours faithfully,


William Walsh
Director - ERBD

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