



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive



Environmental Health Department,  
HSE - South,  
Elmwood House,  
Lurriga,  
Skibbereen,  
Co. Cork.

Tel Number: 028 51456  
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12 August 2011

Ms Josephine Kennedy  
Office of Climate, Licencing and Resource Use,  
Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters  
PO Box 3000  
Johnstown Castle Estate,  
County Wexford

Re: IPPC Licence Application Reg No P0947-01  
Applicant; Staunton Foods, Spittal Cross, Timoleague, Bandon, Co Cork.

Dear Ms Kennedy

Please find enclosed the HSE consultation report in relation to the above proposal..

If you have any queries regarding any of these reports, the initial contact is myself and I will refer the query to the appropriate person in the responsible department.

The following HSE departments were made aware of the consultation request for the proposed development on July 21<sup>st</sup> last.

Public Health Department  
Health Promotion Department  
Emergency Planning Department

#### Environmental Health Report

The EH service response to the proposal is in the attached consultation report.

- The assessment is based on the documentation submitted to this office on 26th July
- A site visit was conducted on July 26th.
- A meeting was held on July 26<sup>th</sup> with Mr Don O Leary Environmental Manager at the plant

Environmental Health Department,  
West Cork Community Services,  
Email Address: [EHO.WESTCORK@hse.ie](mailto:EHO.WESTCORK@hse.ie)



- Additional clarification was provided in response to telephone requests for information.
- All commitments to future actions including mitigation and further testing have been taken as read and all data results have been accepted as accurate.
- No additional investigations / measurements were undertaken.
- This report refers only to those sections of the documents which are relevant to the HSE.
- We have made observations and submissions under the following specific areas
 

Air	Human Beings	Soil
Water		

Yours Sincerely



Gerardine Faughnan

Principal environmental Health Officer

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All correspondence or any queries with regard to this report including acknowledgement of this report should be forwarded by to [Ger.Faughnan@hse.ie](mailto:Ger.Faughnan@hse.ie) or by post to the above address.

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26<sup>th</sup> July 2011

Ms Ger Faughnan,  
A/Principal Environmental Health Officer  
Elmwood House,  
Lurriga,  
Skibbereen,  
CoCork.

Re: **Integrated Pollution Prevention Control Licence Application**  
Reference No: **P0947-01**  
Applicant: **Staunton Foods Ltd,**  
Location: **Spital Cross, Timoleague Co Cork.**  
Nature of Activity: **The operation of slaughterhouses with a carcase production capacity greater than 50 tonnes per day**

Dear Ms Faughnan,

Attached herewith is the Environmental Health response to the application for an Integrated Pollution Prevention Control Licence for the above slaughtering and manufacturing facility at Spital Cross, Timoleague, Co Cork.

**Process Description & Background**

The installation is owned by Staunton Foods Ltd. It is a slaughter facility and a pig meat processor. The unit has been in existence since 1996 and is located in a rural area (agricultural hinterland) close to the town of Timoleague. The following are the main activities of the plant:

- Pork Slaughter
- Pork Cutting
- Pork boning and packing
- Cured products
- Pudding manufacture
- Edible offal

The plant consists of one main building that houses the slaughter, processing operations, offices and staff amenities. There is a waste water treatment plant on site. At present there are 157 staff employed.

There are 4 dwellings in the immediate vicinity of the facility. The distance is less than the 400m distance recommended by the Batneec Guidance for the Pig Production Sector for two of the dwellings. Staff at the plant confirmed that the dwellings are occupied.

This is the first application for a licence for this unit. I visited the site of the above unit on Tuesday the 26<sup>th</sup> of July 2011. I pre-arranged the visit with Mr Don O'Leary, Environmental Manager at the plant. The Environmental Health Department have the following comments to make.

## **SECTION E. EMISSIONS TO ATMOSPHERE**

### **Odour**

#### **Section E1:**

During the visit to the site there was no odour detected.

Areas within the site perimeter were maintained in a clean condition. The Category 3 and 1 skips were covered. The skip for collection of blood residue was not covered however it did not smell and I was informed that it is cleaned out daily.

No historical odour complaints have been recorded by the HSE or the Local Authority Environment Unit Iniscarra.

## **EMISSIONS TO SURFACE WATER**

### **Section E2.**

The application states there are process emissions to water. The waste water from the wheel wash area, lairage, and processing drains flow into the waste water treatment plant. The waste is treated and the treated effluent is discharged on a continual basis into the Spital stream.

Storm drains collect the rainwater and general surface water runoff. The drains are discharged directly into the Spital stream.

To minimise pollution of surface water the diesel tank and brine collection tanks are bunded.

## **EMISSIONS TO SEWER**

### **Section E3**

No emissions to sewer

## **EMISSIONS TO GROUND**

### **Section E 4**

There are no emissions to ground from this site.

- Domestic sewage is directed to a septic tank and the liquid effluent drains into the waste water treatment plant and the solids remain in the tank and are removed off site by a separate licensed contractor as required.
- Sludge from the waste water treatment plant is transported off-site either for anaerobic digestion or for land spreading in a different county.

## **NOISE EMISSIONS**

### **Section E 5**

Operating hours are stated as Monday to Friday and the following operations on a daily basis:

Boning	07.00-1800
Slaughter	08.00-1800
Pudding Production	08.00-18.00
Lairage	06.00-18.00
Collection./deliveries	06.00-00.00
Cleaning	08.00-00.00

A noise survey was carried out on the site. A limit was found to exceed recommended levels at 49dB for a night time operation the limit is 45dB. A plan has been drawn up to identify the possible problem and to reduce the noise level. The noise improvement plan has been set out from July 2011 – September 2012.

There have been no recorded complaints of noise nuisance to either the HSE or LA environment departments.

### **SECTION F CONTROL & MONITORING**

There is extensive monitoring of emissions from the site, the largest being from the waste water treatment plant.

There is no Environmental Management system in place to date however there are plans to implement such a plan. As part of this improvement an alarm system could be fitted to the waste water treatment plant to prevent unauthorised discharge escaping into the stream.

The license application states that there are three sources of water, one public supply and two well supplies. In the interest of public health it is necessary to ensure that the public supply cannot be contaminated by the well supply.

### **SECTION G RESOURCE USE AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

Energy usage stated in the application include electricity, LPG and diesel oil. There are no proposals included in the application to utilise sustainable energies such as wind or solar energy.

### **SECTION H MATERIALS HANDLING**

The following was noted:

- The diesel tank and brine collection tanks are banded.
- The waste types, storage conditions and area according to the map provided were verified as being in place on site.
- Waste Licenses were available on site for all waste collectors/haulers.

### **Section I Existing Environment & Impact of the activity**

- Noise has been dealt with under section E5
- A Natura Impact statement (Stage 1 Screening Report) and assessment of the potential ecological and water quality impacts was drawn up as part of the application.
- There is no sewage discharged into the surrounding water courses. The effluent from the septic tank is fed into the waste water treatment plant on site before the treated effluent is released into the river.
- A surface and groundwater risk assessment was carried out and included in the application.
- Environmental considerations were applied in the recovery of waste from the site. There is a significant amount of recycling and reuse policies in place to reduce the environmental impact of waste from the site

### **Section J Accident Prevention & emergency response**

- An accident prevention and emergency response procedure is in place.
- A specific safety procedure for spills has been drawn up.

### **Section K Remediation, Decommissioning, Restoration & aftercare**

- A decommissioning plan has been outlined in the application should the need arise.

### **Section L Statutory Requirements**

The applicant has outlined how the statutory requirements will be met.

***Yours Sincerely,***

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**Anne-Louise Grant**  
**A/ Senior Environmental Health Officer**