

Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí

Tel: 057 9346800 • Fax: 057 9346868

Website: www.offaly.ie

email: secretar@offalycoco.ie

## Offaly County Council

Áras an Chontae,  
Charleville Road,  
Tullamore,  
Co. Offaly.



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
AGENCY

04 SEP 2013

Ewa Babiarczyk,  
Inspector, Office of Climate Change, Licensing & Resource Use,  
Environmental Protection Agency,  
Headquarters, PO Box 3000,  
Johnstown Castle Estate,  
Co. Wexford.

3<sup>rd</sup> September 2013

CC Eye-O'Sullivan, Office of Climate Change, Licensing & Resource Use

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: W0275-01 – Waste Licence Application re Drumman Materials Recycling and Waste Transfer Facility at Drumman, Derrygreenagh, Co. Offaly**

I refer to the above and your letters dated 19/8/2013 and 27/8/2013.

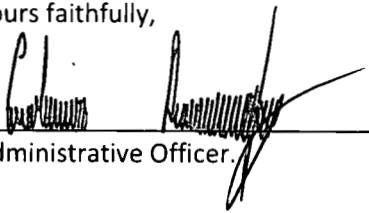
It is noted that in response to RFI at planning stage, the developer proposed treatment of foul water to the following standard:

BOD	20mg/1
SS	30mg/1
Ortho P	2 mg/1 P
Ammonia	2 mg/ 1 N
Nitrate	10 mg/1 N

Responses to Issue 1 (Tables E2) and Issue 6 do not give this full list of parametric limits.

The planning file PL2/10/93 was appealed on 6/10/2010. I attach copy of the planners report and copy of the final grant (as amended by An Bord Pleanala), as requested.

Yours faithfully,

  
Administrative Officer.



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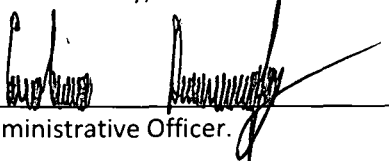
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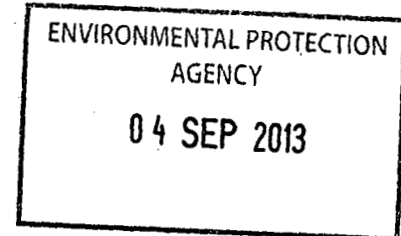
**OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTS 2000 - 2010**  
**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 - 2010**

**NOTIFICATION OF GRANT**

Planning Section  
Áras an Chontae  
Charleville Road  
Tullamore  
Co. Offaly

TO: BORD NA MONA PLC  
C/O DEREK MILTON  
FEHILY TIMONEY & COMPANY  
MILL HOUSE, ASHTOWN GATE  
DUBLIN 15



Planning Register Number: 10/93  
Application Receipt Date: 09/03/2010  
Further Information Received Date: 13/08/2010

Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of the powers conferred upon them by the above-mentioned Acts, Offaly County Council has by order dated 09/09/2010 and An Bord Pleanála order dated 17/02/2011 GRANTED PERMISSION to the above named, for the development of land, in accordance with the documents lodged, namely:-

DEVELOPMENT WHICH WILL CONSIST OF A MATERIALS RECYCLING & WASTE TRANSFER FACILITY THAT WILL ACCEPT 99,000 TONNES PER ANNUM OF NON-HAZARDOUS MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE, CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION WASTE AND SMALL QUANTITIES OF HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE. THE DEVELOPMENT WILL CONSIST OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF: (A) A WASTE RECEPTION AND PROCESSING BUILDING OF GROSS FLOOR AREA 6,810M<sup>2</sup>. (B) A BALED WASTE STORAGE BUILDING OF GROSS FLOOR AREA 978M<sup>2</sup>, (C) AN ADMINISTRATION AND WELFARE BUILDING OF GROSS FLOOR AREA 430M<sup>2</sup>, (D) A DUAL WEIGHBRIDGE SYSTEM INCORPORATING A WEIGHBRIDGE HUT OF 20M<sup>2</sup>, (E) 63 NO. CAR-PARKING SPACES, (F) THE UPGRADING OF AN EXISTING HAUL ROAD AND LAYING OF APPROPRIATE HAULAGE PAVEMENT, (G) PROPRIETARY WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT, (H) ESB SUBSTATION OF 40M<sup>2</sup>, (I) SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM INCORPORATING SURFACE WATER LAGOON OF 2,800 CUBIC METRES CAPACITY, (J) UNDERGROUND RAINWATER HARVESTING TANK, (K) DUST EXTRACTION AND BIOFILTRATION PLANT, (L) SITE BOUNDARY FENCING, HARDSTANDING AREAS AND OTHER ANCILLARY INFRASTRUCTURE. AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR THIS PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT. THIS APPLICATION RELATES TO DEVELOPMENT WHICH REQUIRES APPLICATION TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY FOR A WASTE LICENCE AT DRUMMAN, DERRYGREENAGH, CO. OFFALY.

**Subject to the 9 conditions set out in the Schedule attached.**

In deciding the planning application, the Planning Authority had regard to submissions or observations received in accordance with the Regulations.

Signed on behalf of said Council

Date: 24/2/2011

W. Greany  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

**OUTLINE PERMISSION** is subject to the permission consequent on the grant of outline permission of the Planning Authority. Until such permission has been obtained to the detailed plans, the proposed development is not authorised.

**NOTE:** The permission herein granted shall, on the expiration of the period of **FIVE YEARS** beginning on the date of the granting of permission, cease to have effect as regards:-

- 1 In case of the development to which the permission relates is not commenced during the period, the entire development
- and
- 2 In case such development is so commenced, so much thereof as is not completed within that period.

**File Reference:** PL2/10/93

Application for permission for a development which will consist of a materials recycling & waste transfer facility that will accept 99,000 tonnes per annum of non-hazardous municipal solid waste, construction & demolition waste and small quantities of household hazardous waste. The development will consist of the construction of: (a) a waste reception and processing building of gross floor area 6,810m<sup>2</sup>. (b) a baled waste storage building of gross floor area 978m<sup>2</sup>, (c) an administration and welfare building of gross floor area 430m<sup>2</sup>, (d) a dual weighbridge system incorporating a weighbridge hut of 20m<sup>2</sup>, (e) 63 no. Car-parking spaces, (f) the upgrading of an existing haul road and laying of appropriate haulage pavement, (g) proprietary wastewater treatment plant, (h) ESB substation of 40m<sup>2</sup>, (i) surface water management system incorporating surface water lagoon of 2,800 cubic metres capacity, (j) underground rainwater harvesting tank, (k) dust extraction and biofiltration plant, (l) site boundary fencing, hardstanding areas and other ancillary infrastructure. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been prepared for this proposed development. This application relates to development which requires application to the Environmental Protection Agency for a Waste Licence at Drumman, Derrygreenagh, Co. Offaly - Bord Na Mona Plc.

### FIRST SCHEDULE

Having regard to the nature and scale and intended use of the development, the issues raised in the planning assessments, referral reports, site inspection, existing pattern of development in the vicinity, and the current Development Plan, it is considered that, subject to the conditions in schedule two, that the development would not seriously injure the amenities of the area or of property in the vicinity, would not be prejudicial to public health and would otherwise accord with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

### SECOND SCHEDULE

1. The development shall be in accordance with plans and particulars submitted on 9/3/2010 and amended by revised details submitted on the 13/8/2010 and 27/8/2010 except where conditions hereunder specify otherwise.

**Reason:** In the interests of proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

2. a) Any environmental nuisance i.e. excessive noise, dust, construction traffic, caused during construction of the development shall be contained at an acceptable level.  
b) In dry weather conditions dust abatement measures during construction shall be applied to all loads leaving the site, dampening the load, covering the load or other appropriate measures. Water spraying of roads, shall be carried out as necessary.  
c) Prior to commencement of the development, the developer shall submit a formal "Project Construction and Demolition Waste Management Plan" to the Local Authority for agreement prior to Commencement Notice Stage.

"This report shall include the following as a minimum:

**Demolition works** - details of waste types arising and estimated, proposed waste segregation, waste contractor to be engaged for each waste stream and final destination for each waste stream.

**Construction Works** - details of waste management practices to be implemented on the site including proposed segregation levels, if any, waste receptacles to be used, waste contractor to be engaged for each waste stream and final destination for each waste stream."

**Reason:** In the interests of public health and orderly development.

Contd...../

Contd...../

**File Reference:** PL2/10/93

3. Prior to commencement of development, a contribution shall be payable to Offaly County Council, in accordance with the Council's Development Contribution Scheme, in respect of public infrastructure and facilities benefiting development in County Offaly, excluding Birr and Tullamore Town Council area, that is provided or that is intended will be provided by, or on behalf of, the Council.

The contribution payable will be based on the contribution rate applicable at the time of payment and not the rate in existence when permission is granted. The amount of the development contribution is set out below and is subject to annual revision with reference to the Wholesale Price Index (Building and Construction), and interest for late payment, in accordance with the terms of the Council's Development Contribution Scheme:-

<i>Class of Infrastructure</i>	<i>Amount of Contribution</i>
Class (E) Land use for winning and working of minerals (B) deposit of refuse or waste	€1908 per 0.1 hectares of site area subject to a minimum charge of €19,080.
<b>Total Area 3.2 Hectares</b>	<b>Total Cost €61,056.00</b>

**Reason:** It is considered reasonable that the developer should contribute towards the expenditure incurred or proposed to be incurred by Offaly County Council in respect of the provision/improvement of public services/infrastructure benefiting development in the area of the Planning Authority.

4. The developer shall be responsible for carrying out a Road and Bridge Survey following completion of road works as specified in conditions numbers 8 and 9(b). After five years, another survey shall be carried out to ascertain the condition of the R400 from the site to the M6 junction. This survey shall be submitted to Offaly County Council. Should the survey results find the road requires works to reinstate the road to a satisfactory condition within the functional area of Offaly County Council, the developer shall contribute towards the cost, either by way of payment of a financial contribution under Section 48(2)(c) for road improvements, or by carrying out the said works. This Road and Bridge Survey shall be carried out every five years during the life of the project and reinstatement works shall follow, if necessary. In default of agreement, the matter shall be referred to An Bord Pleanála for determination.

**Reason:** It is considered reasonable that the developer should contribute towards the specific exceptional costs which are incurred by the planning authority which are not covered in the Development Contribution Scheme and which will benefit the proposed development.

5. The developer shall be responsible for carrying out a Road and Bridge Survey following completion of road works as specified in conditions numbers 8 and 9(b). After five years, another survey shall be carried out to ascertain the condition of the R400 from the site to the M6 junction. This survey shall be submitted to Westmeath County Council. Should the survey results find the road requires works to reinstate the road to a satisfactory condition within the functional area of Westmeath County Council, the developer shall contribute towards the cost, either by way of payment of a financial contribution under Section 48(2)(c) for road improvements, or by carrying out the said works. This Road and Bridge Survey shall be carried out every five years during the life of the project and reinstatement works shall follow, if necessary. In default of agreement, the matter shall be referred to An Bord Pleanála for determination.

**Reason:** It is considered reasonable that the developer should contribute towards the specific exceptional costs which are incurred by the planning authority which are not covered in the Development Contribution Scheme and which will benefit the proposed development.

Contd...../

**File Reference: PL2/10/93**

- 6. Prior to commencement of the development the developer shall submit for the written agreement and consent of the planning authority copies of the haul routes identified in the proposed facilities standard operation procedure manual. No variation in haul routes shall be permitted unless the written permission of the planning authority has first been obtained. The development shall only be accessed in accordance with the standard operation procedure manual proposals for site access.

**Reason:** In the interests of traffic safety

- 7. Car parking spaces shall be clearly delineated.

**Reason:** In the interests of traffic safety and orderly development.

- 8.
  - a) The proposed 135 mm thick overlay from chainage 0 to 550 shall consist of 95 mm Clause 906 material Basecourse with a 40mm Clause 910 HRA Wearing Course.
  - b) The proposed 75mm overlay from chainage 550 to 1000 shall consist of 35 mm Clause 906 material Basecourse with a 40mm Clause 910 HRA Wearing Course Overlay to be completed prior to commencement of the project.
  - c) All proposed road markings and signage shall be installed prior to commencement of the development.

**Reason:** In the interests of traffic safety

- 9.
  - a) Prior to the commencement of any development on site details outlining the locations of all road drainage gullies within the application site shall be submitted for the written agreement of the Planning Authority. The development shall be carried out in accordance with these revised particulars.
  - b) The developer shall carry out the proposed structural improvement works to the R400, as identified by the Pavement Analysis Study and all associated Roadmarkings and Roadstudding prior to the commencement of any construction works within the site. These requirements shall be to the written satisfaction of the Planning Authority prior to the commencement of any development on site.
  - c) All construction phase haul routes shall be as indicated in the application. Any deviation from same shall only take place after the written agreement of the Planning Authority has been obtained.
  - d) Prior to the commencement of any development on site, a detailed Construction Traffic Management Plan including road signage and mitigation measure to ensure against the depositing of any material on the public road during the construction phase shall be submitted and agreed with the Planning Authority
  - e) Prior to the commencement of any construction works within the application site the developer shall have provided and have operational a Public Lighting Scheme for this proposed development. Design details associated with same shall be submitted to the local authority for written approval prior to the commencement of any works on the site. The development shall be carried out in accordance with these revised particulars.
  - f) Existing Surface Water outfalls via Existing Water cuts onto the said site shall not be interfered with in anyway that may prevent the runoff of surface water from the Public Road

**Reason:** In the interests of traffic safety and orderly development.

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# OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL

## PLANNING REPORT

**PL REF. NO:** 10/93

**APPLICANT:** BORD NA MONA PLC

**LOCATION:** DRUMMAN, DERRYGREENAGH, CO. OFFALY

**PROPOSAL:** DEVELOPMENT WHICH WILL CONSIST OF A MATERIALS RECYCLING & WASTE TRANSFER FACILITY THAT WILL ACCEPT 99,000 TONNES PER ANNUM OF NON-HAZARDOUS MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE, CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION WASTE AND SMALL QUANTITIES OF HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE. THE DEVELOPMENT WILL CONSIST OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF: (A) A WASTE RECEPTION AND PROCESSING BUILDING OF GROSS FLOOR AREA 6,810M<sup>2</sup>. (B) A BALED WASTE STORAGE BUILDING OF GROSS FLOOR AREA 978M<sup>2</sup>, (C) AN ADMINISTRATION AND WELFARE BUILDING OF GROSS FLOOR AREA 430M<sup>2</sup>, (D) A DUAL WEIGHBRIDGE SYSTEM INCORPORATING A WEIGHBRIDGE HUT OF 20M<sup>2</sup>, (E) 63 NO. CAR-PARKING SPACES, (F) THE UPGRADING OF AN EXISTING HAUL ROAD AND LAYING OF APPROPRIATE HAULAGE PAVEMENT, (G) PROPRIETARY WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT, (H) ESB SUBSTATION OF 40M<sup>2</sup>, (I) SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM INCORPORATING SURFACE WATER LAGOON OF 2,800 CUBIC METRES CAPACITY, (J) UNDERGROUND RAINWATER HARVESTING TANK, (K) DUST EXTRACTION AND BIOFILTRATION PLANT, (L) SITE BOUNDARY FENCING, HARDSTANDING AREAS AND OTHER ANCILLARY INFRASTRUCTURE. AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR THIS PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT. THIS APPLICATION RELATES TO DEVELOPMENT WHICH REQUIRES APPLICATION TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY FOR A WASTE LICENCE.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Grant

**DECISION DUE DATE:** 09/09/2010

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**SECOND PLANNING REPORT ON THIS APPLICATION AS FURTHER INFORMATION WAS REQUESTED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY AND THE APPLICANT HAS SUBMITTED A RESPONSE**

Applicants latest response did not require advertisement as significant further information.

**BRIEF DEVELOPMENT DESCRIPTION:**

Waste transfer/ recycling facility for construction waste and house hold waste. The facility will also cater for some household hazardous waste. Waste will be transported to the site where it will be processed and sent on for disposal at other destinations. ✓

**BRIEF SITE DESCRIPTION:**

The site is located on cut away bog. The site is accessed via an existing gravel constructed haul road. There are trees growing on site. The site adjoins the strategic route the R400. ✓

**RELEVANT PLANNING HISTORY:**

PL2 01/1297 **ROADSTONE PROVINCES LTD CONCRETE ROOF TILE PLANT & STORAGE AREA, SITE OFFICE BUILDING, EFFLUENT TREATMENT SYSTEM, CAR PARKING AREA, E.S.B. SUB STATION & BUNDED FUEL STORAGE TANKS granted** ✓

**In the general vicinity of the site:**

01/1163 **ROADSTONE PROVINCES LTD CONCRETE BATCHING PLANT, BLOCKYARD, BLOCK STORAGE AREA, SITE OFFICE BUILDING, EFFLUENT TREATMENT SYSTEM, ESB SUB STATION & BUNDED FUEL STORAGE TANKS granted**

01/365 **BORD NA MONA PLC EXTRACTION OF SANDS & GRAVELS granted**

05/1113 **ROADSTONE PROVINCES LTD INSTALLATION OF A FIXED PROCESSING PLANT FOR THE PRODUCTION OF BLACKTOP ON A SITE OF 0.875 HA AT EXISTING SAND AND GRAVEL QUARRY. THE ELEMENTS OF THE BLACKTOP PLANT WILL CONSIST OF : (1) COLD FEED SYSTEM (2) DRYING AND HEATING SYSTEM (3) DUST COLLECTION SYSTEM (4) MIXING TOWER (5) FILLER FEED SYSTEM (6) HOT MIX STORAGE SYSTEM (7) BITUMEN SUPPLY SYSTEM (8) CONTROL CABIN AND (9) FUEL STORAGE granted** ✓

An bord pleanala reference number 19.PA0011, Combined cycle gas fired power station granted permission by the Strategic Infrastructure Division of An Bord Pleanala

**PRE-PLANNING CONSULTATIONS:**

Pre planning meetings were held, general advise was given. ✓

**INTERNAL REPORTS:**

Area Engineer:	No objections subject to conditions.
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<u>Environment:</u>	No objections subject to conditions.	✓
<u>Roads report:</u>	No objections subject to conditions.	✓
<u>CFO:</u>	No objections subject to conditions.	✓

**PRESCRIBED BODIES:**

<u>Health Service Executive:</u>	No objections subject to conditions.	✓
<u>OPW:</u>	Application was referred	✓
<u>Fisheries Board:</u>	Raises concerns regarding water quality.	✓
<u>EPA:</u>	Application was referred	✓
<u>Westmeath County Council</u>	Requests an annual development contribution in the event permission is granted.	✓

The development subject of this application is not contrary to the Midland Regional Planning Guidelines and so it was not referred to the Midland Regional Authority.

**3<sup>RD</sup> PARTY OBSERVATIONS:**

None received. ✓

**PROPOSED SERVICES:**

WATER: Well

WASTE WATER: Treatment Plant

SURFACE WATER: Watercourse

**ASSESSMENT:**

(See previous planners report)

I refer to the previous planners report and the councils request for further information. I have examined the response received in addition to updated reports and submissions I propose to assess the applicants response to the planning authoritys request for additional information under the following headings:

- Seveso Site
- Roads and Traffic Safety
- Public Health & Services ✓
- Appropriate assessment

### **Seveso Site**

It is noted that the Combined cycle gas fired power station granted permission by the Strategic infrastructure division of An Bord Pleanála will be a designated seveso site. The proposed site is likely to be designated as within an area where the technical advice of the Health and Safety Authority will eventually be required for future planning applications.

The HSA have indicated in advice received on the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2010 that they have no objections to the development.

### **Roads & Traffic Safety**

The area engineer and roads section have submitted a reports via email which deals with all road related issues. The area engineer and roads engineer have no objections to the development subject to conditions.

It is noted that the applicants proposals for roads related contributions were determined in concert with the area engineer and roads design section.

It is noted that managers orders for special development contribution in relation to road maintenance are required.

It is considered that an annual contribution should also be obtained for Westmeath County Council by Offaly County Council, in accordance with Westmeath county councils request.

### **Public Health & Services**

The applicant has submitted a revised flood report indicating that the proposed development is located not in 100 year flood plain but is in fact located in zone C which is outside the 1:1000 flood plain. On this basis flood risk is not considered an issue.

It is also noted that environment have no objections to the development.

It is noted that the fisheries board have raised concerns about water quality. These concerns were received after the council had issued a request for further information, however the applicant submitted a response which was duly issued to the fisheries board.

The fisheries board in their latest submission dated 6/Sept/2010 raised issues in relation to water quality. It is noted that Offaly County Council environment section have raised no objections and it is considered that the issues raised by Fisheries the are more appropriately dealt with through the waste licence process with the EPA. This is in line with practice of an bord pleanála in relation to the adjacent strategic infrastructure development PL 19.PA0011 for a combined cycle gas power plant.

### **Appropriate assessment**

A screening exercise for an appropriate assessment has been carried out and it has been deemed that the development is unlikely to have significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites. Please see attached report.

## **CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATION:**

Having regard to the above I am satisfied that the proposed development is acceptable subject to schedule one and schedule two and the conditions set out below.

### **Schedule One, a summary of the main reasons and considerations on which the decision is based**

Having regard to the nature and scale and intended use of the development, the issues raised in the planning assessments, referral reports, site inspection, existing pattern of development in the vicinity, and the current Development Plan, it is considered that, subject to the conditions in schedule two, that the development would not seriously injure the amenities of the area or of property in the vicinity, would not be prejudicial to public health and would otherwise accord with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

### **Schedule Two**

1. The development shall be in accordance with plans and particulars submitted on 9/3/2010 and amended by revised details submitted on the 13/8/2010 and 27/8/2010 ✓  
except where conditions hereunder specify otherwise.

**Reason:** In the interests of proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

2.

a) Any environmental nuisance i.e. excessive noise, dust, construction traffic, caused during construction of the development shall be contained at an acceptable level.

b) In dry weather conditions dust abatement measures during construction shall be applied to all loads leaving the site, dampening the load, covering the load or other appropriate measures. Water spraying of roads, shall be carried out as necessary.

c) Prior to commencement of the development, the developer shall submit a formal "Project Construction and Demolition Waste Management Plan" to the Local Authority for agreement prior to Commencement Notice Stage.

"This report shall include the following as a minimum:

Demolition works - details of waste types arising and estimated, proposed waste segregation, waste contractor to be engaged for each waste stream and final destination for each waste stream.

Construction Works - details of waste management practices to be implemented on the site including proposed segregation levels, if any, waste receptacles to be used, waste contractor to be engaged for each waste stream and final destination for each waste stream."

**Reason:** In the interests of public health and orderly development.

3. Prior to commencement of development, a contribution shall be payable to Offaly County Council, in accordance with the Council's Development Contribution Scheme, in respect of public infrastructure and facilities benefiting development in ✓



6 Prior to commencement of the development the developer shall submit for the written agreement and consent of the planning authority copies of the haul routes identified in the proposed facilities standard operation procedure manual. No variation in haul routes shall be permitted unless the written permission of the planning authority has first been obtained. The development shall only be accessed in accordance with the standard operation procedure manual proposals for site access.

**Reason:** In the interests of traffic safety

7. Car parking spaces shall be clearly delineated.

**Reason:** In the interests of traffic safety *and orderly development.*

6.5

8. a) The proposed 135 mm thick overlay from chainage 0 to 550 shall consist of 95 mm Clause 906 material Basecourse with a 40mm Clause 910 HRA Wearing Course.

b) The proposed 75mm overlay from chainage 550 to 1000 shall consist of 35 mm Clause 906 material Basecourse with a 40mm Clause 910 HRA Wearing Course.

Overlay to be completed prior to commencement of the project.

~~b) All proposed public lighting shall be completed prior to commencement of the development.~~ All proposed road markings and signage shall be installed prior to commencement of the development.

*omit as addressed in 9(f)  
6.5*

**Reason:** In the interests of traffic safety

9.

a) Prior to the commencement of any development on site details outlining the locations of all road drainage gullies within the ~~site~~ <sup>application</sup> site shall be submitted for the written agreement of the Planning Authority. The development shall be carried out in accordance with these revised particulars.

b) The developer shall carry out the proposed structural improvement works to the R400, as identified by the Pavement Analysis Study, and all associated Roadmarkings and Roadstudding prior to the commencement of any construction works within the site. These requirements shall be to the written satisfaction of the Planning Authority prior to the commencement of any development on site.

c) All construction phase haul routes shall be as indicated in the application. Any deviation from same shall only take place after the written agreement of the Planning Authority has been obtained.

d) Prior to the commencement of any development on site, a detailed Construction Traffic Management Plan including road signage and mitigation measure to ensure against the depositing of any material on the public road during the construction phase shall be submitted and agreed with the Planning Authority

e) Prior to the commencement of any construction works within the ~~site~~ <sup>application</sup> site the developer shall have provided and have operational a Public Lighting Scheme for this proposed development. Design details associated with same shall be submitted to the local authority for written approval prior to the commencement of any works on the site. The development shall be carried out in accordance with these revised particulars.

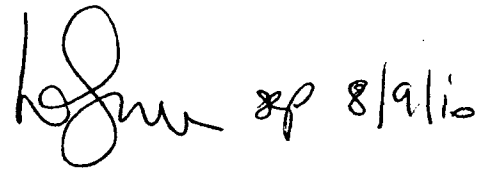
~~f) All operational haul routes shall be as indicated in the planning application. Any deviation from same shall be to the written agreement of the Planning Authority~~

*omit as addressed in 6 above.  
6.5*

f) Existing Surface Water outfalls via Existing Water cuts onto the said site shall not be interfered with in anyway that may prevent the runoff of surface water from the Public Road

**Reason:** In the interests of traffic safety and orderly development.

  
Ed Kelly  
Executive Planner  
8/9/2010

 8/9/10

Report noted

DK  
9.9.2010

For inspection purposes only.  
Consent of copyright owner required for any other use.

 9/9/10

**APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT FOR PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

*Screening is used to determine if an AA is necessary by examining:*

- *If the plan / project is directly connected with / necessary to the management of the Natura 2000 site.*
- *If the effects will be significant on a Natura 2000 site in view of its conservation objectives, either alone / in combination with other plans/ projects.*

Offaly County Council  
Planning Application Ref No:10/93

**A: Description of project and local site:**

Proposed development: MATERIALS RECYCLING & WASTE TRANSFER FACILITY

Site location: Drumman, Derrygreenagh

Site size: 3.22 ha \_\_\_\_\_

Floor area of the proposed development: 8238 sq metres \_\_\_\_\_

Identification of nearby Natura 2000 site(s): Raheenmore Bog

Distance to Natura 2000 site(s): 7 kms \_\_\_\_\_

The characteristics of existing, proposed or other approved plans / projects which may cause interactive / cumulative impacts with the project being assessed and which may affect the Natura 2000 site: None

Is the application accompanied by an EIS? No

**B: Identification of the relevant Natura 2000 site(s):**

1. The reasons for the designation of the Natura 2000 site(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Please see extract from Raheenmore Bog cSAC National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Plan for 2005-2010

Raheenmore Bog is situated 12km north-east of Tullamore, Co. Offaly and comprises 182ha. It developed in a small basin in the catchment of the Brosna and Boyne rivers, and is the deepest remaining raised bog in Ireland. The majority of the site (89%) comprises a statutory Nature Reserve. The underlying rock is Carboniferous limestone, with overlying gravely glacial till and lacustrine deposits above this. Deep peripheral drains surround the bog. Surface drains are also present, mostly on the eastern side of the bog. By far the most important habitat present is the active raised bog, an Annex I priority habitat listed in the E.U. Habitats Directive. The habitat has a well-developed hummock and hollow system. The hummocks are often colonised by the bog mosses *Sphagnum imbricatum* and *S. fuscum*. Pool areas support Great Sundew, the moss *Sphagnum cuspidatum* and the liverwort *Cladopodiella fluitans*. In places, moss lawns of *S. magellanicum* have infilled the pools. Overall, the cover of bog mosses on the bog is very good. Away from the dome summit, Bog Asphodel flats dominate the peat surface. Other species include Ling Heather, Deergrass, lichens, Bog Cottons and White Beak-sedge. Other habitats present on the site include cutover bog, strips of Birch woodland at the margins, lowland wet grassland (fertilised to varying degrees) and freshwater marsh.

Small relict areas of poor fen or lagg vegetation have been identified at Raheenmore. It may therefore be possible to restore some lagg areas, which would add to the quality of the site. Noteworthy plant species present include Tussock Sedge and the moss *Sphagnum pulchrum*. Merlin frequents the site and the Irish Red Grouse recently bred on the bog.

2. The conservation objectives / qualifying interests of the site and the factors that contributes to the conservation value of the site:

The nature conservation objectives for this site are:

**Objective 1:** To maintain and, where possible, enhance the quality of the active raised bog (64% of the site).

**Objective 2:** To restore areas of lagg vegetation around the raised bog i.e. in the westnorth-west and south of the site.

**Objective 3:** To maintain and, where possible, enhance the ecological quality of other habitats, in particular dry, broadleaved semi-natural woodland (3% of site), cutover bog (10%), lowland wet grassland (23%), and freshwater marsh (<1%).

**Objective 4:** To maintain, and possibly increase, the populations of Annex I and other important species of flora and fauna present e.g. Merlin, Grouse and *Sphagnum pulchrum*.

**Objective 5:** To maintain effective liaison between NPW, landowners and other interested parties, in order to effectively manage the site for conservation.

**C: NPWS advice:**

None received.

**D: Assessment of likely significant effects:**

Given the location the nature and size of the development applied for and the characteristics of natura 2000 sites in the vicinity it is considered that two kilometres should be used as a potential zone of impact of the project in accordance with section 3.2.3 of the appropriate assessment guidelines. There are no Natura 2000 sites within two kilometres of the development applied for and therefore no significant effects on any natura 2000 sites either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

Would there be any impact on an Annex 1 habitat? (Annex 1 habitats are listed in Appendix 1 of AA Guidance?)

No

Would there be a reduction in habitat area on a Natura 2000 site?

No

Would there be direct / indirect damage to the physical quality of the environment (e.g. water quality and supply, soil compaction) in the Natura 2000 site?

No

Would there be serious / ongoing disturbance to species / habitats for which the Natura 2000 site is selected (e.g. because of increased noise, illumination and human activity)?

No

Would there be direct / indirect damage to the size, characteristics or reproductive ability of populations on the Natura 2000 site?

No



Would the project interfere with mitigation measures put in place for other plans / projects.  
No

**E: Screening Conclusion:**

No potential for significant effects / AA is not required.

Name: *[Signature]* Position: *[Signature]* Date: *8/9/2010*

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The Area Planner has contacted the Area and Roads Engineers in relation to the applicants response. Roads design have indicated by phone that they do not have any objections to the development and find the applicants road related proposals acceptable subject to some minor modifications.

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# OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL

## PLANNING REPORT

**PL REF. NO:** 10/93

**APPLICANT:** BORD NA MONA PLC

**LOCATION:** DRUMMAN, DERRYGREENAGH, CO. OFFALY

**PROPOSAL:** DEVELOPMENT WHICH WILL CONSIST OF A MATERIALS RECYCLING & WASTE TRANSFER FACILITY THAT WILL ACCEPT 99,000 TONNES PER ANNUM OF NON-HAZARDOUS MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE, CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION WASTE AND SMALL QUANTITIES OF HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE. THE DEVELOPMENT WILL CONSIST OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF: (A) A WASTE RECEPTION AND PROCESSING BUILDING OF GROSS FLOOR AREA 6,810M<sup>2</sup>. (B) A BALED WASTE STORAGE BUILDING OF GROSS FLOOR AREA 978M<sup>2</sup>, (C) AN ADMINISTRATION AND WELFARE BUILDING OF GROSS FLOOR AREA 430M<sup>2</sup>, (D) A DUAL WEIGHBRIDGE SYSTEM INCORPORATING A WEIGHBRIDGE HUT OF 20M<sup>2</sup>, (E) 63 NO. CAR-PARKING SPACES, (F) THE UPGRADING OF AN EXISTING HAUL ROAD AND LAYING OF APPROPRIATE HAULAGE PAVEMENT, (G) PROPRIETARY WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT, (H) ESB SUBSTATION OF 40M<sup>2</sup>, (I) SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM INCORPORATING SURFACE WATER LAGOON OF 2,800 CUBIC METRES CAPACITY, (J) UNDERGROUND RAINWATER HARVESTING TANK, (K) DUST EXTRACTION AND BIOFILTRATION PLANT, (L) SITE BOUNDARY FENCING, HARDSTANDING AREAS AND OTHER ANCILLARY INFRASTRUCTURE. AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR THIS PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT. THIS APPLICATION RELATES TO DEVELOPMENT WHICH REQUIRES APPLICATION TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY FOR A WASTE LICENCE.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Request further information.

**DECISION DUE DATE:** 03/05/2010

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**BRIEF DEVELOPMENT DESCRIPTION:**

Waste transfer/ recycling facility for construction waste and house hold waste. The facility will also cater for some household hazardous waste. Waste will be transported to the site where it will be processed and sent on for disposal at other destinations.

**BRIEF SITE DESCRIPTION:**

The site is located on cut away bog. The site is accessed via an existing gravel constructed haul road. There are trees growing on site. The site adjoins the strategic route the R400.

**RELEVANT PLANNING HISTORY:**

PL2 01/1297 **ROADSTONE PROVINCES LTD CONCRETE ROOF TILE PLANT & STORAGE AREA, SITE OFFICE BUILDING, EFFLUENT TREATMENT SYSTEM, CAR PARKING AREA, E.S.B. SUB STATION & BUNDED FUEL STORAGE TANKS granted**

**In the general vicinity of the site:**

01/1163 **ROADSTONE PROVINCES LTD CONCRETE BATCHING PLANT, BLOCKYARD, BLOCK STORAGE AREA, SITE OFFICE BUILDING, EFFLUENT TREATMENT SYSTEM, ESB SUB STATION & BUNDED FUEL STORAGE TANKS granted**

01/365 **BORD NA MONA PLC EXTRACTION OF SANDS & GRAVELS granted**

05/1113 **ROADSTONE PROVINCES LTD INSTALLATION OF A FIXED PROCESSING PLANT FOR THE PRODUCTION OF BLACKTOP ON A SITE OF 0.875 HA AT EXISTING SAND AND GRAVEL QUARRY. THE ELEMENTS OF THE BLACKTOP PLANT WILL CONSIST OF : (1) COLD FEED SYSTEM (2) DRYING AND HEATING SYSTEM (3) DUST COLLECTION SYSTEM (4) MIXING TOWER (5) FILLER FEED SYSTEM (6) HOT MIX STORAGE SYSTEM (7) BITUMEN SUPPLY SYSTEM (8) CONTROL CABIN AND (9) FUEL STORAGE granted**

An bord pleanala reference number 19.PA0011, Combined cycle gas fired power station granted permission by the Strategic Infrastructure Division of An Bord Pleanala

**PRE-PLANNING CONSULTATIONS:**

Pre planning meetings were held, general advice was given.

**INTERNAL REPORTS:**

<u>Area Engineer:</u>	Requests additional information on surface water and road related issues.
<u>Environment:</u>	Requests additional information on surface water, foul water and flood related issues.
<u>Roads report:</u>	Application was referred
<u>CFO:</u>	No objections subject to conditions.

**PRESCRIBED BODIES:**

<u>Health Service Executive:</u>	No objections subject to conditions.
<u>OPW:</u>	Application was referred
<u>Fisheries Board:</u>	Application was referred
<u>EPA:</u>	Application was referred
<u>Westmeath County Council</u>	Requests an annual development contribution in the event permission is granted.

The development subject of this application is not contrary to the Midland Regional Planning Guidelines and so it was not referred to the Midland Regional Authority.

**3<sup>RD</sup> PARTY OBSERVATIONS:**

None received.

**PROPOSED SERVICES:**

WATER: Well

WASTE WATER: Treatment Plant

SURFACE WATER: Watercourse

**ASSESSMENT:**

I have inspected the site and considered the plans and particulars submitted with the application and all internal reports and submissions from prescribed bodies. I propose to assess this application under the following headings:

- Seveso Site
- Waste Management Plan for the Midlands Region 2005 – 2010
- Development Plan Standards/Policies
- Environment Impact Assessment
- Roads and Traffic Safety
- Public Health & Services
- Appropriate assessment

**Seveso Site**

It is noted that the Combined cycle gas fired power station granted permission by the Strategic infrastructure division of An Bord Pleanala will be a designated seveso site. The proposed site is likely to be designated as within an area where the technical advice of the Health and Safety Authority will eventually be required for future planning applications.

## **Waste Management Plan for the Midlands Region 2005 – 2010**

### **16.6 MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITIES/WASTE TRANSFER STATIONS**

The Midlands is currently served by four Materials Recovery Facilities/Waste transfer Stations. It is anticipated that these facilities will be expanded should the demand arise. At present these facilities generally sort and recover dry-recyclables separately collected from door-to-door collections, Bring Banks and Civic Amenity Facilities for transfer on to recycling process facilities, generally overseas.

Additional facilities may be required in the future to accommodate an expansion of door-to-door collection schemes or to transfer waste to biological or thermal treatment facilities.

#### **Policy:**

**The Local Authorities shall support the development of additional transfer facilities where they can be shown to be consistent with the overall objectives of the Plan and have regard to good principles of siting.**

#### **Objectives:**

- Local Authorities shall ensure that MRFs and Waste Transfer stations are operated in compliance with Waste Permits and the expansion of existing facilities to include pre-treatment technology is supported.

#### **Targets to 2010:**

- Local Authorities shall ensure that the future development of MRFs in the Region include provision for the pre-treatment of mixed municipal and industrial waste prior to disposal to landfill from 2007 onwards.

### **17.1 CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION (C&D) WASTE**

National Policy ('Changing Our Ways') on C&D Waste has set an overall target of 85% recycling by 2013. Over the next five years of this Plan the Midlands Region needs to progress towards this overall objective through the implementation of the waste hierarchy and the producer responsibility principle. The Region needs to ensure that the reuse and recycling of C&D waste is maximised and that illegal collection and disposal of this material is ceased. Furthermore the Local Authorities in the Region should support and promote the endeavours of the National Construction and Demolition Waste Council (NCDWC) and its producer responsibility initiative to reduce the generation of unnecessary C&D waste.

Draft Best Practice Guidelines on the preparation of Waste Management Plans for C&D Projects have been produced by the DEHLG (2004). These provide guidance on the preparation of C&D Waste Management Plans and provide Local Authorities, engineers and developers with an agreed basis for the content of C&D Waste Management Plans.

## **6. Development Plan Standards/Policies**

## 12.4 Waste and Waste Management

The Council is committed to implementing the current Waste Management Plan for the Midlands Region 2005-2010 (in conjunction with North Tipperary, Laois, Westmeath and Longford County Councils), which takes account of both national and EU policy in this area. The Council will also have regard to the National Biodegradable Waste Strategy 2006 and its objectives for preferred options including the following:

- Prevention and minimisation – avoiding generating the waste
- Recycling – mainly of paper and cardboard but also of textiles.

### 12.4.1 Midlands Regional Waste Management Plan

A Waste Management Plan for the Midlands Region 2005–2010 was made in 2005. This plan was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Waste Management Acts 1996 to 2005 and aims to radically alter the approach to managing waste. It is based on the EU waste management hierarchy, which prioritises waste prevention, minimisation, reuse / recycling, disposal with energy recovery ahead of landfill (See Fig. 12.1).

### 12.4.4 Recycling

There are currently forty eight 'bring centres' for recyclables available for public use throughout the county and four civic amenity sites. The Council will encourage the provision of **recycling infrastructure** where it is considered necessary and will assess requirements for recycling facilities on a case by case basis as part of the development management process in particular having regard to policy P12-14. This policy stems from the Environment Services Strategic Policy Committee's Policy on the provision of Bring Banks which was adopted in February 2008.

P12-08 It is an objective of the Council to implement the provisions of the Waste Management Hierarchy and the current Waste Management Plan for the Midlands Region. As a result, developments in the county will be expected to take account of the provisions of the Waste Management Plan for the Midlands Region and adhere to those elements of it that relate to waste prevention and minimisation, waste recycling facilities, and the capacity for source segregation.

From section 10.3 of the county development plan.

Settlement plans at all levels of the county's settlement hierarchy provide for employment use (Refer to Volume 2, settlement plans). The Council recognises that certain commercial / industrial activities may need to be accommodated in areas outside of existing settlements and these are acceptable where it can be demonstrated that they **support and enhance rural communities**.

However, certain industries are more suited to rural environments rather than urban environments. Such developments will be considered in rural areas.

#### **Planners conclusion on this basis of the aforementioned policies.**

The principle of a recycling facility is in accordance with development plan policy.

Given the proposed developments scale and its requirement for unrestricted access to national transport infrastructure such as the M6, it is considered that the proposed facility would **not** be suitable in the vicinity of a town and therefore a rural location such as the one currently proposed is required for the development subject of this application.

### Environment Impact Assessment

105 An environment impact assessment has been submitted as the proposed development involves 99,000 tonnes of waste. It is noted that the threshold for strategic infrastructure is <sup>over</sup> 100,000 tonnes <sup>annual intake for an installation for the disposal, treatment or recovery of waste.</sup> of non-hazardous waste.

### Roads & Traffic Safety

The area engineer has requested further information.

### Public Health & Services

Environment have requested further information on amongst other issues flood related impacts. It is noted that the site is on benefiting lands. The applicant has submitted a flood impact assessment which indicates the site is on a 1 in 100 year flood plain. This raises serious concerns which the applicant should be invited to address.

### Appropriate assessment

A screening exercise for an appropriate assessment has been carried out and it has been deemed that the development is unlikely to have significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites. Please see attached report.

### CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATION

Having regard to the plans and particulars submitted with the application and my inspection of the site, I recommend that **Further Information** be requested.

- 15
1. The applicant should note that the planning authority have very serious concerns regarding the proposed development as the applicant has indicated that the site is within a 1 in 100 year flood plain. The planning authority concerns are regarding three main issues, whether the building of the proposed development in a 1 in 100 year flood plain complies with the "planning system and flood risk management guidelines" <sup>by D.E.H.G.</sup> the technical feasibility of building on a flood plain, and whether the assessment of alternatives in the submitted Environmental Impact Statement properly takes into account flood risk.

15 a) Regarding whether the building of the proposed development in a 1 in 100 year flood plain complies with the "planning system and flood risk management guidelines" it is noted that the development may qualify under table 3.1 of the guidelines as either less vulnerable development (as it is a form of waste treatment) or Highly vulnerable development (As the proposal involves the processing of 200 tonnes of household hazardous waste). In accordance with table 3.2 the proposal is therefore required to pass the appropriate justification test as set out in the guidelines. The applicant is requested to submit a report <sup>demonstrating</sup> indicating whether the proposal passes the relevant justification test.



65  
b) Regarding the technical feasibility of building on a flood plain it is estimated that the proposed development will remove 3.2ha from the existing floodplain by way of infilling the proposed site and the applicant has not proposed to accommodate the displaced flood water elsewhere. Taking this information into account, the applicant's proposals do not demonstrate that the development will not increase flood risk elsewhere and that they will provide suitable measures to minimise flood risk to people, property, the economy and the environment as far as reasonably possible as required by the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines Chapter 5 Justification Test for Development Management, Box 5.1, Part 2(i) & (ii). Please therefore submit details of the predicted 100yr return period floodplain, post development. The impact of the change in floodplain on existing developments (including the <sup>adjacent permitted</sup> proposed power station) should be clearly detailed. Details of suitable mitigation measures to prevent any impact should also be submitted.

c) Regarding the assessment of alternatives in the submitted Environmental Impact Statement it is considered that potential flood risk impacts have not been assessed. In particular, it is noted that of the three final sites considered that the "Derrygreenagh works" site is in an area at low risk of flooding. *Please address*

2. Please submit a detailed drainage layout plan with all manholes labelled and proposed levels indicated. Detailed longitudinal sections of the proposed storm water system including the pervious area, attenuation pond and outfall. Flood levels in the Mongagh river should be referenced.
3. Please submit details of storm water storage from the administration building and the surrounding impervious areas (access roads and car park roads etc) and details of the proposed pre-treatment prior to discharge.
4. Please submit details of the proposed flow control device and how it will provide the 3 stage discharge rates for the proposed development.
5. Please submit details of the proposed oil interceptor, including capacity.
6. The background concentrations of the Mongagh River were measured in a month of high rainfall (Nov '09) and are therefore probably not representative of 95%-ile values. Please submit longer term records sourced from the EPA and/or Westmeath County Council and use these in calculating assimilative capacity. The standard of treatment should be adjusted accordingly, if necessary.
7. Nitrate concentrations in the treated effluent are a matter of concern to the planning authority. A standard of  $\leq 1.8\text{mg/l N}$  (mean) and  $\leq 2.7\text{mg/l N}$  (95%-ile) for good status should be used. The treatment proposal should be informed by the results. Please submit details.
8. Please submit details of surface water and foul sewer longitudinal sections.
9. Please submit details of capping and paving analysis.

10. Please submit a traffic management plan with all haul routes identified and volume and frequency of Heavy Goods vehicles identified.

11.

a. The applicant is requested to submit a report estimating the costs of repairing the damage to the road network caused by traffic created by the proposed development during the construction and operation of the proposed facility

b. Please submit details of public lighting, road marking details and signage for the entrance to the development.

c. Please submit details of the treatment of existing surface water cuts off the R400 into the applicants surface water system.

d. The applicant should note that the Planning authority are not in favour of the use of temporary traffic lights as suggested during the construction period for construction traffic traversing the R400 from the adjacent gravel pit. The applicant is invited to submit revised proposals and in this regard is invited to contact Damien Greannan Snr Exec Engineer Edenderry Area Office, Offaly County Council prior to a formal response to this further information request.

e. The applicant has indicated that during the construction period that all construction traffic will access the site via M6 only. Please indicate how this is to be enforced. Similarly during the operational period only Local Refuse collection is to access the site through the local road network. Please indicate how this is to be enforced.

f. Please submit relevant permissions for Surface Water and Foul Sewer final effluent discharge find the river Mongagh to be submitted from the relevant authorities.

g. Please submit photographic palate of the external colour finishes of the proposed development.

h. Please submit a map indicating where each photomontage in the EIS was taken from.

i. It is not considered that the Environmental Impact statement has properly assessed the risks of failure of attenuation/flooding facilities on site and therefore the risk of hazardous household waste contaminating water supplies. The applicant is requested to submit a report addressing these risks.

12. It is noted that the Combined cycle gas fired power station granted permission by the Strategic Infrastructure Division of An Bord Pleanala may be a health and safety risk in the event of an accident. The applicant is requested to submit a letter of consent from the Health and Safety Authority for the proposed development.

13. Please submit a landscaping plan for the proposed development, including details of existip trees & hedges, identification of any trees/hedges proposed to be felled, and details of any proposed new landscaping.

6'5

*Ed Kelly*

Ed Kelly  
Executive Planner

29/4/2010

*Report noted (including LD's abs)*

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*Ed Kelly*  
29/4/10

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**APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT FOR PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Screening is used to determine if an AA is necessary by examining:

- If the plan / project is directly connected with / necessary to the management of the Natura 2000 site.
- If the effects will be significant on a Natura 2000 site in view of its conservation objectives, either alone / in combination with other plans/ projects.

Offaly County Council  
Planning Application Ref No:10/93

**A: Description of project and local site:**

Proposed development: MATERIALS RECYCLING & WASTE TRANSFER FACILITY

Site location: Drumman, Derrygreenagh

Site size: 3.22 ha \_\_\_\_\_

Floor area of the proposed development: 8238 sq metres \_\_\_\_\_

Identification of nearby Natura 2000 site(s): Raheenmore Bog

Distance to Natura 2000 site(s): 7 kms \_\_\_\_\_

The characteristics of existing, proposed or other approved plans / projects which may cause interactive / cumulative impacts with the project being assessed and which may affect the Natura 2000 site: None

Is the application accompanied by an EIS? No

**B: Identification of the relevant Natura 2000 site(s):**

1. The reasons for the designation of the Natura 2000 site(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Please see extract from Raheenmore Bog cSAC National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Plan for 2005-2010

Raheenmore Bog is situated 12km north-east of Tullamore, Co. Offaly and comprises 182ha. It developed in a small basin in the catchment of the Brosna and Boyne rivers, and is the deepest remaining raised bog in Ireland. The majority of the site (89%) comprises a statutory Nature Reserve. The underlying rock is Carboniferous limestone, with overlying gravely glacial till and lacustrine deposits above this. Deep peripheral drains surround the bog. Surface drains are also present, mostly on the eastern side of the bog. By far the most important habitat present is the active raised bog, an Annex I priority habitat listed in the E.U. Habitats Directive. The habitat has a well-developed hummock and hollow system. The hummocks are often colonised by the bog mosses *Sphagnum imbricatum* and *S. fuscum*. Pool areas support Great Sundew, the moss *Sphagnum cuspidatum* and the liverwort *Cladopodiella fluitans*. In places, moss lawns of *S. magellanicum* have infilled the pools. Overall, the cover of bog mosses on the bog is very good. Away from the dome summit, Bog Asphodel flats dominate the peat surface. Other species include Ling Heather, Deergrass, lichens, Bog Cottons and White Beak-sedge. Other habitats present on the site include cutover bog, strips of Birch woodland at the margins, lowland wet grassland (fertilised to varying degrees) and freshwater marsh.

Small relict areas of poor fen or lagg vegetation have been identified at Raheenmore. It may therefore be possible to restore some lagg areas, which would add to the quality of the site. Noteworthy plant species present include Tussock Sedge and the moss *Sphagnum pulchrum*. Merlin frequents the site and the Irish Red Grouse recently bred on the bog.

2. The conservation objectives / qualifying interests of the site and the factors that contributes to the conservation value of the site:

The nature conservation objectives for this site are:

**Objective 1:** To maintain and, where possible, enhance the quality of the active raised bog (64% of the site).

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**Objective 3:** To maintain and, where possible, enhance the ecological quality of other habitats, in particular dry, broadleaved semi-natural woodland (3% of site), cutover bog (10%), lowland wet grassland (23%), and freshwater marsh (<1%).

**Objective 4:** To maintain, and possibly increase, the populations of Annex I and other important species of flora and fauna present e.g. Merlin, Grouse and *Sphagnum pulchrum*.

**Objective 5:** To maintain effective liaison between NPW, landowners and other interested parties, in order to effectively manage the site for conservation.

**C: NPWS advice:**

None received.

**D: Assessment of likely significant effects:**

Given the location the nature and size of the development applied for and the characteristics of natura 2000 sites in the vicinity it is considered that two kilometres should be used as a potential zone of impact of the project in accordance with section 3.2.3 of the appropriate assessment guidelines. There are no Natura 2000 sites within two kilometres of the development applied for and therefore no significant effects on any natura 2000 sites either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

Would there be any impact on an Annex 1 habitat? (Annex 1 habitats are listed in Appendix 1 of AA Guidance?)

No

Would there be a reduction in habitat area on a Natura 2000 site?

No

Would there be direct / indirect damage to the physical quality of the environment (e.g. water quality and supply, soil compaction) in the Natura 2000 site?

No

Would there be serious / ongoing disturbance to species / habitats for which the Natura 2000 site is selected (e.g. because of increased noise, illumination and human activity)?

No

Would there be direct / indirect damage to the size, characteristics or reproductive ability of populations on the Natura 2000 site?

No

Would the project interfere with mitigation measures put in place for other plans / projects.

No

**E: Screening Conclusion:**

No potential for significant effects / AA is not required.

Name	Position	Date
<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>	29/4/2010

Regards was had to the  
Rahernore Bog Conservation Plan  
on [www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie)

*[Signature]* sep 29/4/10

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