



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

sub. no. 2  
Environmental Health Service  
HSE Dublin/North East  
Cavan and Monaghan  
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23 November 2016

Ms. Claire O'Dwyer  
Principal Environmental Health Officer  
Environmental Health Office  
The Arcade  
Main Street  
Cavan  
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Re/ Application for Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Licence.

**Class and Nature of Activity: 6.1**

The rearing of poultry in installations where the capacity exceeds 40,000 places.

Applicant: Mr Peter McKenna, c/o Mr Padraic Fay, CLW Environmental Planners Ltd, The Mews, 23 Farnham Street, Cavan, Co. Cavan.

Location of Facility: Feebaghbane, Scotstown, Co. Monaghan.

Ref. No: P0852 - 02

EHIS Ref: 0528

Dear Claire,

I refer to the submission of a review of an application for an Industrial Emissions License to the EPA for poultry production units from Mr. Peter McKenna, Feebaghbane, Scotstown, Co. Monaghan.

The licence review application for these units was received by the EPA on the 13 October 2016 and following a review of the EIS submitted by the applicant, the Environmental Health Service conducted a site visit on 14 November 2016.

There are currently 3 fully operational Free Range Broiler houses to accommodate 87,500 broilers onsite. Rearing of chickens is carried out from day olds until removed off site for meat production. It is proposed to newly construct one additional broiler house following planning permission from Monaghan County Council to do so to bring overall capacity to 107,500 birds.

The following are observations made whilst reviewing the said EIS, related documents in conjunction with EPA guidance documents and associated Legislation and observations during a site visit and discussions with Mr. McKenna on 13 October 2016.

**Receptors**

There is no neighbouring dwelling house within 150m of this site and the applicant has stated that there have been no complaints and this office has not been made aware of any complaints.

### **Water Supply:**

Tydvavnet Group Water Scheme currently supplies the existing poultry houses with drinking water. This office is not aware of any existing issues with this water supply and the applicant has stated that the water supply is tested regularly.

### **Surface Water / Storm Water / Soiled Water**

All surface water from the yards are drained via a piped drainage system and discharged to a land drain to the rear of the Manure Store No.6 as indicated in Attachment B2 in the application. The storm water from the roofs are also drained via a piped drainage system to field drains. There is no risk of flooding on this site. There are concrete aprons on the front end of each house and are maintained in excellent condition. Soiled water is washed in to the soiled water tanks, as indicated in Attachment B2 in the application, during clean down and there was no evidence, at the time of the visit, to indicate that soiled water was entering the clean surface water drainage system.

There is currently no surface water quality monitoring scheme in place to determine water quality at the discharge points.

**It is recommended that a condition of the licence stipulate that a surface water quality monitoring scheme is put in place and that the baseline conditions of the groundwater are established in the neighbourhood of the site and of the land spreading areas. That periodic water quality monitoring is established of the relevant parameters and that relevant records are maintained by the applicant for inspection.**

The surface or storm water discharge point is not identified in the EIS (Attachment B2) in the application however the discharge point is identified on site.

**It is recommended that the applicant clearly identify and label all discharge points including a National Grid References for the purpose of inspection and sampling of all future developments.**

There has been no sampling by the applicant of groundwater in the neighbourhood of the site to establish baseline conditions of groundwater quality.

**It is recommended that the baseline conditions of the groundwater are established in the neighbourhood of the site and of the land spreading areas. Periodic water quality monitoring of relevant parameters as per licence. Where appropriate test wells should be provided at the site of the poultry unit.**

### **Wash Water Tanks**

The applicant stated that he empties the washwater tank regularly and mixes the soiled water in the cattle slurry tank to ensure no overflow occurs he also has high level indicators installed in each washwater tanks. It is subsequently spread on the family land surrounding the site in accordance with the Nitrates Directive however; the applicant currently has no Nutrient Management Plan in place.

**It is recommended that a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) should be maintained by the applicant on site for the management of poultry manure and wash-water arising at the unit and should include:**

- Calculation of the quantity of manure and the amount of nutrients available from manure including any manure or other wastes imported.
- The results of soil fertility and drainage tests on existing or proposed land spreading areas.



- A representative soil sample, to a depth of 10cm, should normally be taken biennially from every 2 to 4 hectares and at least one per farm. However, where soil types are similar and cropping and treatments of the lands were the same during the previous 5 years or more, a composite sample from an area up to 12 hectares is acceptable.
- An assessment of the relationships between manure application rates, cropping routine, crop nutrient requirements and existing soil nutrient status on all land spreading areas.
- Ordnance Survey Maps to a scale of 1:10,560 showing the location of the said land spreading areas and all environmentally sensitive features on the lands or in their vicinity; including *inter alia* dwellings houses and sensitive buildings, drains, streams, watercourses and other sources of water supply.
- Agreements between 'importers' and 'exporters' of all animal manures or other wastes are required.

The Nutrient Management Plan should be up-dated and issued to the Agency for approval on an annual basis.

It is further recommended that the applicant is advised of Batneec Guidance Note Section 4.6 Spreading of Poultry Manure and the conditions therein.

The applicant is proposing to construct an additional wash water tank to facilitate the new poultry house.

It is recommended that the applicant is made aware that the following applies to all poultry manure and wash-water storage structures whether or not on the site of the unit:

- A minimum of six months storage capacity dedicated to the unit is required.
- All construction work should be certified by a chartered engineer as having been constructed according to S108 or S123 as appropriate, (DAFF, 1987 and 1994).
- Where the poultry manure storage structures are constructed to another design specification, then both the design specification and the subsequent construction work should be certified by a chartered engineer as being suitable for the task and comparable to the Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry specifications.
- All storage tanks should be inspected by a chartered engineer and certified as structurally sound for the purpose they were intended subsequent to construction and at appropriate intervals thereafter.
- Leak detection facilities based on inspection chambers and perimeter wall and under floor drains should be provided as appropriate.

#### Manure:

Currently all manure/litter is collected by the contractor McCartney Contractors Ltd, Moynalty, Kells, Co Meath who removes the manure from the houses to the compost yards/recipient farmers. No Manure is stored on site although suitable facilities exist to accommodate the required manure storage.

#### Waste

Dead birds are stored in suitable containers and collected by Irish Bait & Tackle Ltd Ballyconnell, Co Cavan, at 1–2 weekly intervals or more often if necessary.

#### Odour

Emissions to atmosphere from this farm include normal respiration gases and odours emitted from the houses and from the manure. Increased emissions may at times be associated with the loading of poultry manure once every 6-8 weeks for around 4 hours per house. This office is not aware of any odour complaints nor has the applicant received any complaints regarding this installation. At the time of the site visit odour levels appeared acceptable for this type of farming activity. There will however be increased activity at this facility when the new poultry house is operational.



It is recommended that a condition of the licence stipulate that the applicant effectively manage odour on site at all times but particularly during destocking and during the cleaning process.

#### **Noise**

The site is located in a rural environment. B.A.T. specifies the standard noise emission limit values of 55 (daytime) and 45 (night time) dB(A) at any noise sensitive location. It is not envisaged that there will be any significant increase in noise levels from the facility following the expansion. To date this office has not received any noise complaints regarding this facility. At the time of the site visit noise levels appeared acceptable. There will however be increased activity at this facility when the new poultry house is operational particularly during the construction phase.

It is recommended that a condition of the licence stipulate that the applicant effectively manage noise level on site at all times particularly during the construction and during destocking and the cleaning process thereafter.

#### **Pest Control**

Pest control measures on site are maintained and administered by the applicant. A visual inspection of the bait boxes was carried out. The boxes were in good condition and well baited and located at regular intervals around the site. Records of pest control measures are being maintained by the applicant.

It is recommended that a condition of the licence place an obligation on the applicant to continue to maintain adequate vermin control measures and maintain all pest control records at the installation and that these measures and controls are extended to the proposed new development.

#### **Oil Storage Tank:**


Page 6 of the Baseline Screening Report appears to indicate that there is an impervious concrete base located at the diesel tank however the current facilities for diesel storage have not got a impervious concrete base nor is it bunded as required. The diesel tank is located in an area which has the potential to cause substantial pollution to ground water courses and to contaminate land if a leak should occur. The applicant has stated that he intends to move the tank to the manure shed which has an impervious base.

It is recommended in the interim that a condition of the licence stipulate that the applicant, in accordance with Batneec Guidance, should have all oil storage tanks on site placed on impervious bases and should be located within oil tight bunds, capable of holding 110% of the volume of the largest tank within the bund. That fill and draw pipes should be enclosed within the bund.

#### **Conclusion:**

The facility is operated in a very efficient manner by the applicant. Other than the issues stated above, the HSE have no further concerns at this time regarding this facility.

Yours faithfully,

  
**Barry Coady**  
Environmental Health Officer