



### Submission

Submitter:	Miss Claire PEHO
Organisation Name:	HSE EHS
Submission Title:	P1127-01
Submission Reference No.:	S006035
Submission Received:	26 March 2020

### Application

Applicant:	Malachy McMeel
Reg. No.:	P1127-01

See below for Submission details.

Attachments are displayed on the following page(s).

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Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Environmental Health Service,  
The Arcade,  
Main St,  
Cavan.  
H12 N251

Tel: +353 (0) 49-437 3414  
Fax: +353 (0) 49-437 3427

**Date:** 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020

**Our reference:** 1109

**Report to:** Environmental Licensing Programme  
Office of Environmental Sustainability  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Johnstown Castle Estate  
Co. Wexford

**EPA reference:** P1127-01

**Type of Consultation:** Industrial Emissions

**Applicant:** Malachy McMeel , Corry, Emyvale, Monaghan Corry, A00 AA00

**Nature of Activity:**

Classes and Nature of Activity in accordance with the EPA Act 1992 as amended			
Class of Activity	Main Activity	EPA Act Sector (where applicable)	Class of Activity Description
6.1 (a)	Yes	Intensive Agriculture	The rearing of poultry in installations where the capacity exceeds 40,000 places.

## Introduction

The following HSE departments were notified of the consultation request for the licence application on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020

- Emergency Planning – Kay Kennington
- Estates – Helen Maher
- Assistant National Director for Health Protection – Kevin Kelleher / Laura Murphy
- CHO – John Hayes

This report only comments on Environmental Health impacts of the licence application.

#### **Site Location:**

The site in question is 1.407 hectares in area and is located in a rural area within the townland of Corry. Access to the site will be via an existing access road that is just off a local, third class road. The site is 5.7km north-west of Emyvale. The site comprises an overall area of c. 1.407 hectares owned by the applicant with a total of c. 44.83 hectares farmed, including the site of the proposed development.

The activity on the site will be, a poultry farming activity similar to the current activities in the area and consistent with the development plan for Co. Monaghan. Poultry farming is seen as a traditional farming activity in this part of Co. Monaghan. The existing site, while remotely located is serviced by a good road network, and is accessed by a local road which subsequently connects with the National Route, the N2 Monaghan - Derry Road, c. 3-4 km from the farm. The poultry house for which permission is sought would be located adjacent to the existing poultry house and c. >100 m from the adjoining local road.

This proposed development is to utilise the existing access/egress route. The poultry house for which permission is sought would be located adjacent to the existing poultry house, and will be similar to other such developments such as that operated by the applicant on this existing site and those operating elsewhere within the county.

There are no third party dwelling's located within c. 125-150 metres of the proposed development.

#### **Water Supply:**

The water supply for the proposed development will be from the Truagh Group Water Scheme which is monitored by Monaghan County Council water services.

The Geological Survey of Ireland have classified the aquifer to the site and the surrounding area as; Locally Important Aquifer - Bedrock which is Generally Moderately Productive Aquifer Category Lm Category Description Locally Important Aquifer - Bedrock which is Generally Moderately Productive Area (sq km) 128.08 with a vulnerability rating of Low (L) vulnerability.

The EIAR has stated that adverse effect on ground water from the proposed development should be nil, as there will be no process discharge to ground and minimal risk of accidental leakage or spillage of polluting liquid on the site. In addition the EIAR states that activities on the site will be carried out on an impermeable concrete base, with proper storm and soiled water separation and collection facilities.

The proposed development, will operate on a dry manure basis, whereby the manure will be removed from the houses after each batch and transported off site, there is minimal risk to ground water supplies in the area of the site.

The EIAR did not provide adequate information on local ground water supplies in the area. The applicant should consult the Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) well database ([www.gsi.ie](http://www.gsi.ie)) in order to identify local wells that may exist. In addition to this the applicant should carry out a door to door well survey of dwellings in close proximity (300m of site boundary) as the GSI well database is not exhaustive in terms of the locations of all wells in an area (as the database relies on the submission of data by drillers and the public, etc.). This is to ensure water supplies are protected both from the operation of the proposed development and to ensure compliance with Part 4 of the European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2017.

**Soiled Water:**

Soiled water from the proposed development will be collected in a dedicated soiled water collection tank, located at the end of the proposed house. It is estimated that soiled water production will be a total of c. 140 m<sup>3</sup> per annum. The Soiled water collection tank(s) will have a combined capacity of 88m<sup>3</sup>. Manure will be removed c. 7/8 times per annum at the end of each batch. This is to be moved off-site by the appointed contractor. This soiled water will then be applied to farmland in line with S.I. 605 of 2017, as amended.

**It is recommended that the applicant is made aware that the following applies to all poultry manure and soiled 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.

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

**It is recommended that the applicant install High Level Monitors to the proposed soiled water tanks in order to minimise the risk of unintentional overflow. It is further recommended that the applicant monitor and empty the soiled water tanks before they reach their capacity again to avoid any unintentional overflow.**

**It is recommended, given the significant increase in production and the size of the surrounding land on which soiled water can be spread, that the applicant monitors ground nutrients on his lands via a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP).**

**That the Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) is maintained by the applicant on site for the management of soiled-water arising at the facility 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.

- **Ordinance 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.**

### **Storm/Surface Water:**

The application site lies within the Lough Neagh and Lower Bann Hydrometric Area and Catchment, the Blackwater (tributary) Sub-Catchment and the Tireran Sub-Basin. The EPA has not defined the ecological status of the watercourses that are close to the application site. The Blackwater River at its confluence with the Tireran Stream has been classed as good.

The EIAR states that there is an open drain within the application site and clean surface water from this development will be directed into this drain. Water in this drain is likely to flow in a northerly direction towards the Tireran Stream, which is 406m north of the application site. The Lisavargy Stream is 244m south of the application site, but in a separate sub-basin. Both watercourses are within the same sub-catchment (Blackwater Tributary).

There will be no process discharge to surface water and minimal risk of accidental leakage or spillage of polluting liquid on the site.

Regardless of the ecological status of the surrounding water courses it is vital that the applicant take all due care in ensuring that there is no discharge of contaminated waters from the proposed development particularly during loading and cleaning. The current discharge point was not identifiable on site.

**It is recommended that the applicant is advised to take all due care to ensure that soiled water does not contaminate the clean surface water particularly when loading or cleaning is in progress.**

**It is recommended that the licence stipulate that all discharge points must be labeled and identified on site for the purpose of monitoring and sampling including grid references.**

**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.**

**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.**

**Manure:**

The estimated manure production as a result of the proposed development will be c. 750-850 tonnes/annum increasing from c. 375 tonnes/annum. The EIAR states that all the poultry manure from the farm will be removed off site by an authorised contractor, CLR - Co-op.

**Waste:**

The EIAR states that dead bird carcasses will be stored in a covered sealed container on site, awaiting collection by College Proteins who are an authorised contractor. They will regularly remove these carcasses, and any other such material to an authorised Animal By-products plant at Nobber, Co. Meath, in compliance with existing requirements.

**It is recommended that the applicant ensure that there is adequate storage for dead birds particularly when the second house is constructed and that all other waste products are disposed of at Monaghan Co. Co. civic amenity centre or returned to the supplier for recycling in a timely manner or removed by a licensed waste collector and that there is no accumulation of waste on site.**

**Odour:**

There are no sensitive locations in such close proximity to the proposed development so as to be adversely impacted by gaseous emissions.

The EIAR states that Emissions to air from the site will be small and will not cause significant annoyance and will not interfere with amenity outside the boundary of the site. It also states that odour emissions from the site may be increased at times when birds and/or manure is being removed from the site, however this will only occur for a short period in every cycle.

The Environmental Health Service has not received any odour complaints regarding this facility.

**It is recommended that the applicant be advised to continue to monitor odour from the installation.**

**Noise:**

The EHS is satisfied that noise generated from the proposed development will not cause a nuisance. The site is located in a rural environment and there is a significant distance to third party dwellings which would suggest that the proposed development is not likely to have any adverse noise impact. The EHS has not received any noise complaints regarding this facility.

There would not be any source of significant vibration on the site.

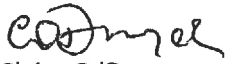
**Pest Control:**

The Environmental Health Service was unable to locate any reference to pest control measures to be implemented by the applicant.

**The procedure for pest control for the proposed development is a vital element of the management of this development. The developer should set bait at various strategic locations around the new house and maintain a weekly check and associated records. A map outlining the locations and numbers of baiting stations should be drawn up. A "Baiting Checklist" should be kept, recording details of Bait Station number, comments, actions and dates. Recorded checks should be carried out on a weekly basis and ameliorative action taken when/if necessary.**

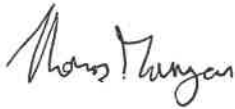
**Conclusion:**

The current facility appears to be operated in a very efficient manner by the applicant. Other than the observations stated above, the Environmental Health Service have no further concerns at this time regarding this proposed development.



Claire O'Dwyer

Principal Environmental Health Officer



Thomas Mangan

Environmental Health Officer

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Dear Sir/Madam

Please find enclosed the HSE consultation reports in relation to the above licence application. If you have any queries regarding any of these reports the initial contact is Ms Claire O'Dwyer, Principal Environmental Health Officer, who will refer your query to the appropriate person

Yours faithfully,

  
Claire O'Dwyer  
Principal Environmental Health Officer