



Submission

Submitter:	Mr CorporateSupport Unit
Organisation Name:	Department of Environment, Climate and Communications
Submission Title:	Reply from GSI
Submission Reference No.:	S010362
Submission Received:	01 June 2022

Application

Applicant:	Mr. Jerry McAuliffe
Reg. No.:	P1179-01

See below for Submission details.

Attachments are displayed on the following page(s).



Environmental Licensing Programme
Office of Environmental Sustainability
EPA
Johnstown Castle Estate
Wexford, Y35 W821

30 May 2022

Re: Application for IE licence for installation at Feohanagh, Limerick

Your Ref: P1179-01

Our Ref: 22/145

Dear Sir/Madam,

Geological Survey Ireland is the national earth science agency and is a division of the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. We provide independent geological information and advice and gather various data for that purpose. Please see our [website](#) for data availability. We recommend using these various data sets, when conducting the EIAR, SEA, planning and scoping processes. Use of our data or maps should be attributed correctly to 'Geological Survey Ireland'.

With reference to your email received on the 19 April 2022, concerning Application for IE licence for installation at Feohanagh, Limerick, Geological Survey Ireland would encourage use of and reference to our datasets. Please find attached a list of our publicly available datasets that may be useful to the environmental assessment and planning process. We recommend that you review this list and refer to any datasets you consider relevant to your assessment. The remainder of this letter and following sections provide more detail on some of these datasets.

We are pleased to see use of our Groundwater Aquifer and Vulnerability maps and datasets within the EIAR.

Geoheritage

A national inventory of geoheritage sites known as County Geological Sites (CGSs) is managed by the Geoheritage Programme of Geological Survey Ireland. CGSs, as adopted under the National Heritage Plan, include sites that are of national importance which have been selected as the very best examples for NHA (Natural Heritage Areas) designation. NHA designation will be completed in partnership with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). CGSs are now routinely included in County Development Plans and in the GIS of planning departments, to ensure the recognition and appropriate protection of geological heritage within the planning system. CGSs can be viewed online under the Geological Heritage tab on the online [Map Viewer](#).

The audit for Co. Limerick is due for publication at the end of May 2022. Unaudited CGSs can be viewed online under the Geological Heritage tab on the online [Map Viewer](#). The sites are listed in a master list of unaudited sites and are presented on Geological Survey Ireland's Map Viewer as sites with buffer zones but no specific site boundary. **Our records show that there are no CGSs in the vicinity of the poultry facility.**

Groundwater

Geological Survey Ireland's [Groundwater and Geothermal Unit](#), provides advice, data and maps relating to groundwater distribution, quality and use, which is especially relevant for safe and secure drinking water supplies and healthy ecosystems.

Proposed developments need to consider any potential impact on specific groundwater abstractions and on groundwater resources in general. We recommend using the groundwater maps on our [Map viewer](#) which should include: wells; drinking water source protection areas; the national map suite - aquifer, groundwater vulnerability, groundwater recharge and subsoil permeability maps. **For areas underlain by limestone, please refer to the karst specific data layers (karst features, tracer test database; turlough water levels ([gwlevel.ie](#))).** Background information is also provided in the Groundwater Body Descriptions. Please read all disclaimers carefully when using Geological Survey Ireland data.



The Groundwater Vulnerability map indicates the area is classed as 'Low'. The poultry facility is underlain by a 'Regionally Important Aquifer - Karstified (diffuse)'.

There is a Public Water Supply Scheme Source Protection Area 2km from the poultry facility: Tobergal (SW Region) PWS. Link to report at:

https://secure.dccae.gov.ie/GSI_DOWNLOAD/Groundwater/Reports/SPZ/LK_PWSS_SPZ_Tobergal_December_1995_GSI.pdf

If the waste arising from the intensive poultry facility is being landspread, it should comply with the Licensed Landspreading Groundwater Protection Response and indicated site assessment requirements for the particular groundwater vulnerability, aquifer and source protection area setting, as well as the relevant current EPA guidelines.

The Licensed Landspreading document is here:

https://www.gsi.ie/documents/Groundwater_Response_Matrix_for_Landspreading_of_Organic_Waste.pdf.

Geological Survey Ireland has completed Groundwater Protection Schemes (GWPSs) in partnership with Local Authorities, and there is now national coverage of GWPS mapping. A Groundwater Protection Scheme provides guidelines for the planning and licensing authorities in carrying out their functions, and a framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater. **The Limerick Groundwater Protection Response overview and link to the main reports is here:** <https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/publications/Pages/Limerick-Groundwater-Protection-Scheme-Reports.aspx>.

I hope that these comments are of assistance, and if we can be of any further help, please do not hesitate to contact me Clare Glanville, or my colleague Trish Smullen at GSIPlanning@gsi.ie.

Yours sincerely,

Clare Glanville
Senior Geologist
Geological Survey Ireland

Enc: Table - Geological Survey Ireland's Publicly Available Datasets Relevant to Planning, EIA and SEA processes.