
M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: 12 June, 1997
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Elisabeth Nagel
RE: Summary Information for Proposed Determination.

Applicant: McCarren and Company Reg. No.171
Farnham Road
Cavan

Class of Activity *7.4The slaughter of animals in installations where the daily capacity exceeds 1,500 units and where units have the following equivalents: 1 pig =2 units*

Application: Lodged September 30th, 1996
Article 10 request issued November 22nd, 1996
Article 10 information received (incomplete) March 7th, 1997
Article 10 information received (incomplete) April 2nd, 1997
Article 10 request re-issued April 17th, 1996
Article 10 information received (incomplete) May 20th, 1997
Article 10 info received (complete) May 23rd, 1997

Site Visit: A site visit was carried out on December 11th 1996.

Local / Sanitary Authority: Cavan Urban District Council

Company Business

Mc Carren & Company is a pig slaughtering facility on the outskirts of Cavan town. It is presently not in operation, due to an ongoing industrial dispute. The last slaughter took place on the February 28th 1996. The plant has a capacity to slaughter 6000 -7000 pigs per week.. The full capacity was not utilised prior to closure, when an average of 3500 - 4000 pigs were slaughtered per week.

Waste Water Arisings

The company holds a Licence to discharge to sewer under the Local Government (Water Pollution Act 1977 and 1989) issued by Cavan UDC. Cavan town has secondary sewage treatment facilities.

Large quantities of effluent arise from the continuous-flow dehairing and carcass dissection areas as well as from the daily wash-down of the entire slaughter line. The supernatant from the slatted tanks under the lairage and truck-washing areas is combined with the other effluent streams and directed into an on site waste water treatment system. The curing brine is also discharged to the waste water treatment system. These combined effluent streams pass through a series of fine screens in the waste water treatment system, which remove hairs, meat scraps and coagulated fat from the waste stream. The pH is regulated, before controlled discharge to sewer takes place. Screenings from the WWTP are disposed of by landfill.

Surface water drains are separated from the effluent drains, and discharge takes place to river.

Condition 9.1 of the proposed determination (PD) requires daily visual examination and routine monitoring of the surface water emissions.

Air Emissions

One boiler using medium fuel oil with a sulphur content of 2.4% is presently installed on site. The existing boiler stack extends to approximately 5 meters above roof level. This is the only air emission point, apart from occasional wood smoke arising from the bacon curing oven.

Condition 5.4 of the PD requires the licensee within three months from the date of recommencement of operations to submit details of the type of boiler fuel that is employed, including the sulphur content thereof.

Condition 5.5 of the PD also requires the licensee within three months from the date of recommencement of operations to carry out an assessment to the satisfaction of the Agency, in order to ascertain whether the existing stack height offers adequate dispersion for the boiler emissions.

Noise

As the activity has not been in operation for 16 months, no noise survey could be carried out as part of the IPC application.

Condition 8.1 of the proposed determination requires the licensee to carry out a comprehensive noise survey to the satisfaction of the Agency, within 6 months from the date of recommencement of operations, or from the date of grant of the licence, whichever date is the later.

Waste

The IPC application states, that there are no hazardous waste arisings at the activity. Exact quantities of non hazardous wastes could not be submitted, as the activity is not in operation. Organic wastes for landspreading will include lairage waste and truck washings, with a solids content of 1-4%. Approximately 20m³/week are expected to arise for landspreading when the activity is fully operational.

It is proposed, that a chilled blood recovery unit will be provided on-site. The blood will be removed periodically by a company engaged in blood protein synthesis. This arrangement will eliminate the need for landspreading the blood.

Other wastes for landfill include sludge from the WWTP, pigs hair and canteen/office waste.

Conditions 7.1 and 7.2 of the proposed determination require the licensee to supply details of all hazardous and non hazardous wastes and the names of the contractors who will handle the disposal of the wastes one month prior to recommencement of operations.

Conditions 7.7.1 and 7.7.2 of the PD specify that all landspreading contractors and landbanks have to be agreed with the Agency 3 months prior to the commencement of any landspreading.

Condition 7.7.4 also specifies that all landspreading activities shall be carried out in accordance with a Nutrient Management Plan, which shall be submitted to the Agency 3 months in advance of the commencement of any landspreading activities.

Animal By-products

Condemned carcasses, soft offal unfit for human consumption, and bones will be removed to a rendering plant.

Groundwater

No information was provide in the application regarding past groundwater contamination, or the present quality of groundwater below the site.

Condition 9.2.1 of the proposed determination requires the licensee to submit an assessment of the risks to groundwater arising from the activity, within six months from the date of recommencement of the operation or from the date of grant of the licence, whichever date is the later.

Condition 9.2.2 also requires the licensee to prepare a groundwater monitoring programme, and to sink wells, if the prior assessment establishes that a substantial risk of groundwater pollution exists from the activity.

Submissions

One standard submission was received from the Department of the Marine on November 1st 1996. It referred to maximum allowable BOD/SS levels in effluents that will reach surface waters. The advise given in the submission was noted, however, as McCarren & Co Ltd.do not discharge process effluents to a surface water course, no specific conditions were included in the PD regarding this. Conditions regarding the protection and monitoring of surface waters are specified in Condition 9.1 and Schedule 3(i).

Recommendation:

I recommend that this proposed determination be approved by the Board as submitted .

Signed _____

Elisabeth Nagel