
M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: 04 September 1997
TO: The Board of the Agency
FROM: Frank Clinton
RE: Proposed Determination, Basta Hardware Ltd,
Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo (Reg No. 269)

Applicant : Basta Hardware Ltd.,
Tubbercurry
Co. Sligo.

Lic Reg No. 269

Application by Basta Hardware Ltd., Die casting and electroplating

Sector 12.3

Application lodged	18/6/97
Article 11(2)(b) (ii) notice sent	1/7/97
Article 11(2)(b) (ii) response received (in full)	15/7/97
Site Visits	4/4/97

Proposed Determination of IPCL

The Company :

Basta was established almost 40 years ago in Tubbercurry as a manufacturer of zinc die cast builders hardware. The activity operates in an 110,000 square foot building, on a 20 acre site. Basta's core business is the manufacture and sale of zinc die case builders hardware. This business is also supplemented by the purchase and sale of other builders hardware products, the manufacture and sale of an architectural range in aluminum, brass and stainless steel, and the manufacture of zinc die case components on a subcontract basis. The annual turnover is £3.5 million with 50% of product going to export.

Discharges to water :

Basta produces an effluent from its electroplating operations which is high in a range of heavy metals. These effluent streams are treated to allow for the

return of most of the heavy metals to the production area for reuse in further electroplating operations. The treatment system also produces waste metal sludges which are very concentrated in heavy metals. The final effluent discharged does contain residual levels of a range of heavy metals. Zinc and nickel are the most predominant of the metals present. The company was regulated under the Water Pollution Acts since the early 1980's by Sligo County Council. There were occasional excursions above limit values, particularly for zinc and nickel.

In 1994 Sligo County Council reviewed the WPA licence to allow Basta some time to make improvements, and allowed eighteen months for these improvements to be made. The anticipated improvements have not been realised.

In the PD specific conditions have been included (Conditions 6.4 and 6.5) to require improvements to the process effluent treatment system, with a phased-in programme for the achievement of the required ELV's for effluent discharge to the Tubbercurry River. The Tubbercurry River is a tributary of the Moy, - which is itself a Designated River under the Salmonid Water Regulations (S.I. No. 293 of 1988). The Tubbercurry River was expressly exempted under these requirements.

Emissions to Atmosphere :

There are only two emission points of note from the operations. A furnace is operated in the process for the melting down of ingots of zinc (or aluminium) prior to die casting. TA Luft limits have been set for inorganic dusts from this activity. General Particulate dust emissions are also required to be monitored. Emissions from boilers, die casting machines, electroplating baths and degreasing operations were deemed to be insignificant.

Noise :

There are no noise issues in relation to the operation. Although there are NSL's located very close to the operation (within 20 m), there have been no historical noise problems. There are no noisy operations carried on external to the building in relation to the process.

Odours :

There is no history of odour problems associated with this activity.

Wastes :

The majority of the waste generated by the operation are off-spec product, skimmings from the ingot melting operations, and metal sludges from the process effluent treatment system. These are disposed of through approved routes, with the metal sludges being exported for final disposal. Small quantities of waste such as paper, plastic and other wastes are land-filled.

Groundwater

Very little useful information was provided by the applicant in relation to groundwater quality under the site. More detailed information will have to be provided by this company in the form of a hydrogeological investigation of the site, with the provision of monitoring wells as required. Any issues related to groundwater quality will be addressed once the hydrogeological study has been carried out.

Surfacewater :

There is a very low level of activity in relation to this operation carried on in open, and the threat of contamination of surface water is low. Issues related to bunding of storage areas, and tanks (including oil tanks) will be addressed by the requirements of Condition 9 Non-Process Water, of the Proposed Determination. There is a requirement for the monitoring of surface waters included in Schedule 4(i).

Submissions :

There were no submission on this application

Recommendation :

It is recommended that the Board of the Agency approves the Proposed Determination in the case of this application as outlined.

Signed

Frank Clinton

Licensing & Control Division