
M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: 12/02/99
TO: Each Board Member
FROM: Michael Henry
RE: Application for an IPC licence from Kilcormac Farms Ltd. (Reg. No. 412)

Application Details	
Class of activity:	6.2
Licence application received:	09/03/98
Notices under article 11(2)(b)(ii) issued:	01/05/98;25/09/98
Information under article 11(2)(b)(ii) received:	04/08/98;24/12/98;02/02/99
Site Visit:	18/09/98; 04/02/99

The Activity

This application relates to an established 1122 sow breeding unit at Gortnamuc, Kilcormac, Co. Offaly. The proposed operation is focused towards the production of pigs of weaner weight (32-36kg). Replacement gilts are also reared. Weaners are then transferred to the other units for fattening. There are twelve people employed directly at the pig unit.

Kilcormac Farms currently lease the pig unit from the proprietor, who also operates a dairy unit at this site. The dairy unit has been excluded from the application for IPC purposes (Condition 1.4). Planning permission was granted by An Bord Pleanala to Offaly Pig Producers (previous lessors up to 1985) for a pig unit in February 1982. No single media licence was issued for the facility by Offaly County Council.

Waste Treatment

Operation of the pig unit will result in the production of 8,428 m³ of slurry annually (excluding wash water) while the total storage available for slurry and wash water on site is 8,012 m³. Condition 7.2.1 of the proposed determination requires the applicant to provide a minimum of six months slurry storage capacity for wastes destined for landspreading.

The annual quantity of Phosphate in the slurry produced at the unit is estimated as 10.9 tonnes based on each sow and her progeny (to weaner weights) producing 9 kg Phosphate per year and the replacement/fattening pigs producing 3 kg P year⁻¹. The applicant has identified 39 farms with a potential usable area comprising approximately 1,236 ha. This does not exclude lands with a phosphorus content of >15mg/IP. None of this land is owned by the applicant. Using the application rates for slurry specified in the Teagasc (1994) recommendations, there is sufficient land to dispose of approximately 18 tonnes P in addition to on-farm cattle slurry, based on current soil fertility levels.

Landspreading is proposed primarily within an approximate 10 km radius from the unit and all farms are located in the vicinity of Kilcormac, Co. Offaly. Farms are mainly located in the catchments of the Silver, Black and Rapemills Rivers. The principal river water body which passes through Kilcormac is the Silver River (tributary of the Upper Shannon) and the 1996 EPA biological survey assigns a Q3-4 EPA rating to the water monitoring stations at or downstream of Kilcormac town (ie Slightly Polluted).

The applicant undertook a landbank assessment of the proposed spreadlands which incorporated a review of the geological, hydrogeological, and subsoil conditions at the landspreading sites. The groundwater resource assessment categories for the proposed spreadlands fall within the regionally important and locally important aquifers having a vulnerability rating ranging from extreme to moderate. Land identified as 'extremely vulnerable' in terms of groundwater protection have been excluded from landspreading subject to additional information being provided by the applicant on the depth of overburden. There are no proposed National Heritage Areas or Special Areas of Conservation at the site of the pig unit or associated spreadlands.

Other than pig slurry, the major wastes produced at the site include pig carcasses (required to be stored in covered steel containers and sent weekly for rendering), and waste veterinary products and containers. The on-site dead pigs pit was previously used for disposal of dead piglets, weaners, and afterbirth. However, the proposed determination requires the applicant to (i) cease disposal of such waste in the dead pigs pit and (ii) submit proposals for decommissioning of this pit (Condition 7.2.6). A site is available for disposal of animals in the event of a Class A disease outbreak.

Domestic effluent is discharged to a septic tank system which is currently desludged a couple of times per year and mixed with the pig slurry for landspreading. Condition 5.6 of the proposed determination requires the applicant to cease this practice and obtain prior agreement for the proposed disposal/recovery of this waste. In addition, the applicant is required to certify fit for purpose this septic tank and percolation area (Condition 7.2.5).

Odour

Schedule 2(i) of the proposed determination specifies the odour sensitive locations in the vicinity of the pig unit. Houses 'A' and 'C' are owned by the proprietor of the pig/dairy operations and are located adjacent to these units. No complaint or submission on the IPC application has been received by the Agency from the occupants or owners of any of the odour sensitive locations.

Water Emissions

The only surface water emission from the activity relates to clean rainwater from roofs and yards and this discharges to a nearby stream and to a soakpit located at the site. Water for the pig unit is taken from the groundwater well which is located on the owners premises.

Ambient Monitoring

The applicant is required to monitor three groundwater wells and four surface water points at or adjacent to the spreadlands as specified in Schedules 4(ii) and 4(iii) of the proposed determination.

Submissions

No submissions on the IPC application were received by the Agency.

Recommendation

That the Board approve the proposed determination as submitted.

Signed

Dr. Michael Henry
Inspector