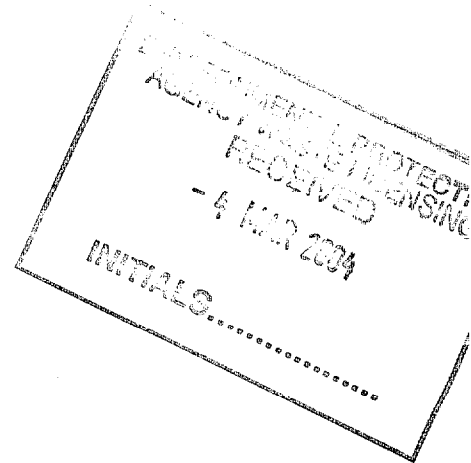


202-1

Seamus Kelly & Sons



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

**For:
Waste Recycling Centre
Gorey Business Park
Gorey
Co. Wexford**

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Prepared By

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Non Technical Summary

1. General

This non-technical summary is provided as required by Article 6 of the European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations, 1998 (S.I. No. 351/1998) which amends Article 25 of the European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations, 1989 (S.I. No. 349/1989).

Seamus Kelly and Sons (SK&S) operate a domestic, commercial and industrial waste collection and recycling business from Gorey Business Park, Ramstown Gorey, Co. Wexford. The facility has planning permission to operate a waste transfer station since 1995. Significant changes are now necessary to allow the company to expand its recycling processes and to improve the environmental performance and the overall efficiency of operations at the site. This environmental impact statement (EIS) will be sent to the EPA to accompany the waste licence application which was submitted in February 2004.

2. Description and characteristics of the development

The facility currently handles household, commercial, industrial, and construction and demolition waste as described above. All wastes handled are non-hazardous in nature. Recycling at the facility comprises recovery of paper, wood, cardboard, metal, plastic and construction and demolition materials. There is one picking line for the recovery of construction and demolition waste. This picking line can also be used for the recovery of other waste types. Any non-recyclable waste is bulked up on the premises and transferred to landfill in covered trailers. SK&S also provide a service for the collection of dry recyclables from householders and the Company hopes to expand this service in the region.

The existing facility consists of one main building dedicated to waste handling which also houses the office areas, canteen and changing rooms. The site also contains a weighbridge, a weighbridge cabin, toilets, vehicle wash bay, recycled materials storage bays and a fuel storage area.

The facility currently handles approximately 16,500 tonnes per annum. The opening hours at the facility are from 8.00a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Monday to Friday and 8.00a.m. to 1:00p.m. on Saturdays. It is proposed to extend the opening hours to 7:30am to 6:30pm Monday to Friday and from 8:00am to 2:00pm on Saturdays. The Waste Licence Application accompanied by this EIS includes a proposal to increase the current licensed tonnage to 30,000 tonnes per annum over five years. The proposed changes to the facility include a proposal to construct a new building which will cover the entire site ensuring all activities take place indoors.

3. Data necessary to identify and assess the main effects which the development is likely to have on the environment

The data necessary relates to the site development characteristics and the existing environment in which the development has been situated as follows:

Site Statistics and Development Characteristics

Although strictly speaking, site statistics are not an aspect of the environment, per se, they form the database upon which most of the calculations related to impacts on the environment are based. The site statistics include site area, building size, hours of operation and traffic generation.

Climate

Climatological data for a number of stations in County Wexford relating to rainfall, wind and evapotranspiration was compiled as a baseline for evaluating the development. The annual rainfall at the site was estimated at 877mm/annum and the prevailing wind was determined to be from the west and southwest.

Air Quality

Dust measurements were made at 2 monitoring stations. A source upwind of the site was identified as the primary potential source of dust on site. Historically the handling of C&D waste had been an additional source of dust on site but the proposed enclosure of C&D waste handling inside the proposed new building will minimise the risk of future dust emissions from this activity.

Noise Environment

Baseline noise levels were recorded at locations on site, at the site boundary, at the nearest sensitive receptors and at a background location. Noise assessment was carried out during daytime operations at the site. Background noise levels in the surrounding area are industrial in nature.

Geology and Soils

The site is underlain by the Campile Formation, which forms the top of the Duncannon Group, Lower Palaeozoics. The overlying soils consists of glacial drift of sandy, gravelly clays. Previous investigations within the Ramstown area recorded deposits of clayey material ranging in thickness from 9.5m to 20.5m.

Groundwater

The groundwater direction flow in the bedrock is most likely in an easterly direction towards the Banoge River. The site is underlain by rocks of the Campile Formation of the Duncannon Group which is considered to be a major aquifer.

Surface Water

The site is located in an industrial area therefore surface water from roofs and paved areas of the site currently runs-off to man made storm drains. All non-roof surface water passes through 2 (No.) petrol interceptor prior to discharge to a percolation area. It proposed to roof in the entire site therefore all surface water run-off will be in the form of clean roof water.

Flora and Fauna

The site is not covered by any designations of nature conservation interest. There are no natural or semi-natural habitats on site. The only fauna present on site are vermin.

Human Beings/Local Population

The site is located in an industrial area, which is zoned "To provide for Industrial Uses" in the Gorey Local Area Plan 2002. Therefore the predominant landuse in the vicinity is industrial. An urban residential area is located 200m to the northeast.

Traffic and Road Network

A traffic survey carried out at the site indicated that the existing junction, site entrance, and circulation areas work well with the existing traffic volume. The site is convenient to the N11, the thus providing good access to the National Roads network.

Landscape

The existing recycling centre is located within an extensive area of industrial development. The site boundary comprises concrete block walls fitted with corrugated sheeting.

Cultural Heritage

An appraisal of the cultural heritage was undertaken, detailing relevant aspects of local history and providing an archaeological assessment of the site and its environs. The study concluded that historical industrial development had removed or disturbed any areas on the site where archaeological remains could have survived. Nothing of archaeological significance was noted in the field assessment.

Material Assets

The material assets of the local area comprise other industrial premises, housing some distance away together with public infrastructure and engineering utilities including roads, a railway, and overhead electric wires. The N11 is dominated by heavy commercial traffic and the features typical of a heavy industrial environment.

4. Likely significant environmental effects and measures envisaged to avoid, reduce or remedy them

Climate

No significant adverse impact upon the climate is predicted as a result of the operation of the facility.

Air Quality

No adverse effects on air quality from aerosols or decomposition gases are predicted. Dust control and measures are in place at the site. While dust levels are high at some monitoring stations, it is considered that this is due to a source of dust upwind of the site. In fact, the construction of a new building to entirely cover the facility will further reduce environmental dust levels.

Noise

The proposed expansion of the Recycling Centre is likely to increase the number of waste haulage vehicles and associated noise. Additional noise from daytime traffic will be insignificant in terms of existing heavy industrial traffic on the N11. Mitigation measures will be put in place to reduce noise emissions from plant and machinery. All on-site operations will be totally enclosed by the new building.

Geology and Soils

The concrete floors and drainage systems in the existing and new buildings and yards at the site will prevent any contaminants from the waste materials migrating into the underlying clay and no impact on soil quality is predicted. This boulder clay provides a very good barrier between the development and the bedrock and no impacts from the development are predicted.

Groundwater

The vulnerability of the bedrock aquifer is moderate. All rainwater falling on the upgraded site will be in the form of clean roof water. Foul water generated within the site will be held in concrete tanks for disposal off-site. The risk of groundwater pollution will be reduced by the proposed development and therefore the net impact of the development is considered to be positive in groundwater terms. No new mitigation measures are considered necessary.

Surface Water

The proposed roofing of the entire site, by the construction of a new building, is considered as a positive impact in terms of surface water quality. No additional mitigation measures are considered necessary.

Flora and Fauna

Pest Control measures are in place on site for the control of vermin. The proposed roofing of the entire site will mitigate for any potential impacts on water quality in the Banoge River and its tributaries. With these mitigation measures in place no negative impact is anticipated on flora or fauna in the vicinity of the development.

Human Beings/Local Population

The proposed expansion is not expected to have a negative impact on the residents living adjacent to the site. The construction of the additional building will have a positive effect on dust, noise and odour control in the surrounding area. The expansion of the facility will lead to an increase in employment locally. With appropriate emissions-related mitigation measures in place no adverse significant impact is anticipated to human beings.

Traffic and Road Network

The proposed increase in traffic associated with the expansion of SK&S facility will be easily absorbed by the existing capacity of the N11 and the adjacent national network. No adverse impact on the surrounding road network or road users is predicted from the proposed expansion of SK&S recycling centre.

Landscape

The proposed development is visually in keeping with the surrounding industrial land use. The development has no conflict with the County Wexford Development Plan or the Gorey Local Area Plan. No negative visual or landscape impact is anticipated.

Cultural Heritage

The nature of pre-existing industrial development has rendered the survival of archaeological remains highly unlikely. There is no discernible impact on the archaeological or historical resource and no mitigation measures are recommended.

Material Assets

No negative impact is predicted on the material assets of the Ramstown or Gorey areas.

Interactions

A number of potential impacts resulting from interactions between environmental media were identified. Mitigation measures for these potential impacts are proposed in specific Sections of the EIS (e.g. surface water, air, noise etc.). Impacts from interactions of environmental media at the site are considered low or insignificant.

5. Effects of the Development due to use of Natural Resources

No natural resources, other than groundwater, are used directly to operate the facility. Fossil fuels are used to power vehicles and plant. Electricity is used which is derived from the burning of fossil fuels by the ESB. The overall effect of the development on natural resources is considered insignificant. Since wastes handled by the facility are produced regardless of the development some other similar operation would still be required.

6. Effects due to Emissions

The effects of emissions from the facility are addressed in Section 3 of the EIS. This includes the short, medium and long term effects, and the permanent, temporary, positive and negative effects of any environmental emissions.

7. Forecasting Methods Used to assess any Effects on the Environment

Professional judgement based on site reconnaissance, desk studies and calculations were used to assess effects of the proposed development on the environment.

8. Alternatives

The alternatives available to the operator are addressed in Section 1 of the EIS. These include alternative locations, alternative processes and the do-nothing alternative. In practical terms the expansion of an existing facility is favourable to the installation of a new facility. The location of the existing centre in an industrial estate with good access to the national road network is considered a very favourable location for a waste management centre. SK&S are attempting to improve the recycling infrastructure at the site to maximise the volumes of material recycled and minimise landfilling, as required by National and EU Policy. The do-nothing alternative is considered less favourable than the present situation.

9. Difficulties encountered in compiling specified information

No difficulties were encountered.