

INSPECTORS REPORT

Waste Licence Register Number: 10-2

Facility: Basketstown Landfill, Basketstown, Summerhill, Co. Meath.

Applicant: Meath County Council.

Inspector: Peter Carey

Inspector's Recommendation: A revised Waste Licence be granted subject to conditions.

(1) Introduction

This report relates to an application by Meath County Council for a review of the existing Waste Licence for Basketstown Landfill (Waste Licence Reg. No. 10-1 issued 01/04/99) and is in accordance with the requirements of Section (46)(5) of the Waste Management Act, for which the licensee notified the Agency that waste activities at the landfill ceased on 22/12/01. The review relates to the closure and aftercare of the facility.

The classes of activity applied for are:

- Third Schedule of the Waste Management Act 1996; Classes 1, 4, and 13
- Fourth Schedule of the Waste Management Act 1996; Classes 9, 10 and 13.

The Recommended Proposed Decision (RPD), for the reasons set out in Section 5 of this report, permits the above waste disposal and recovery activities, subject to the conditions therein.

Number of Submissions Received	3
Date application received	07/11/02
Most recent site visit	Facility Audit carried out by Dave Shannon on 15/10/03

(2) Specific Issues under Waste Licence Reg. No. 10-1

Landfill gas management - Five residential properties within 250m of the landfill were evacuated as a precautionary measure on 03/06/01 following the triggering of a CO₂ gas monitor which was installed in a residential property in close proximity to the landfill. Landfill gas management at the facility currently incorporates an array of perimeter gas monitoring points, an active control system which is made up of a system for the collection of gas at the perimeter of three sides of the facility and a system for collection of gas from the main waste body. The RPD requires the landfill gas management system to be maintained and requires the on going monitoring of perimeter gas boreholes.

Groundwater – monitoring results, submitted under waste licence Reg. No. 10-1, indicate groundwater contamination upstream and downstream of the facility e.g. elevated levels of ammonia, presence of coli forms and hydrocarbons/volatile organic carbons. The source of the contamination has not been identified and the licensee has been requested to take actions to identify the source. At present, the licensee is tankering drinking water to residents within the immediate vicinity of the landfill and intends to provide a piped supply from the Kiltale Group Water Scheme.

(3) Facility Restoration & Aftercare

The licensee proposes to restore the closed landfill to grasslands. Facility restoration and aftercare includes completing the capping works, planting vegetation, implementing a leachate management system and maintaining the landfill gas management system at the facility.

(4) Submissions

Three submissions were received in relation to this application.

1. **Duchas:** They stated that they had no objections or recommendations from a nature conservation perspective.

2. **Eastern Regional Fisheries Board:** *They state that:*
- *They have not received any water quality monitoring results since 20/08/01.*
 - *They have concerns in relation to leachate control, localised groundwater contamination and the receiving waters of the Knightbrook River.*
 - *They would like the Agency to ensure the following:*
 - *No further organic matter to be landfilled at the site;*
 - *Everything possible is done to ensure that no further contamination emanates from this landfill;*
 - *If leachate contamination does not cease that other methods of leachate decontamination be looked at;*
 - *All monitoring of local waters should be continued and all results should be made available to interested parties.*

Inspectors Response:

The review application relates to the restoration and aftercare of the facility. Landfilling of waste ceased in December 2001. The RPD requires the licensee to implement a leachate management system at the facility. Following implementation the licensee is required to review the system and implement any subsequent recommendations within 12 months or earlier if instructed by the Agency. Monitoring will be on going. All monitoring results are available at the licensee's facility office and at the Agency's Headquarters.

3. **North Eastern Health Board:** *They state that:*
- *The frequency of all sampling and monitoring of surface and groundwater should not be reduced until it is established that the capping of the landfill has significantly reduced leachate production.*
 - *The application makes reference to a number of water supplies in the vicinity of the site, however the existence of a further privately owned water supply serving approximately 8 households adjacent to the site has been overlooked.*

Inspectors Response:

The RPD requires monitoring of surface water and groundwater at the frequency set in Schedule D. The RPD requires that all private wells within 500m of the facility be monitored.

(5) Reasons for the Recommendation

I recommend that a revised waste licence with conditions be granted for all classes of waste activity applied for in the application (Class 1, 4, and 13 of the Third Schedule and Classes 9, 10 and 13 of the Fourth Schedule). In coming to this recommendation, I consider that these activities would, subject to the conditions of the RPD, comply with the requirements of Section 40(4) of the Waste Management Act 1996.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

Peter Carey