

INSPECTORS REPORT

WASTE LICENCE REGISTER NUMBER 134-1

Applicant: N. Murphy Waste Disposal Ltd.

Facility: Sandyhills, St. Margarets, Co. Dublin

Inspector's Recommendation: The licence be granted subject to conditions.

(1) Introduction

The application is for an existing waste transfer station and recycling facility. The company has been in the waste business for 25 years and have operated on the site at St. Margarets Co. Dublin, which is leased from Brian McDonnell, for the past three years. The facility is situated close to Dublin airport, and is less than 1km distance from some of the airport's runways. There is a school and a church about 500m from the site and the village of St. Margarets is about 1km from the site. There are no other neighbouring households or noise sensitive locations in the vicinity of the facility. Waste types to be accepted at the facility include commercial and industrial non-hazardous waste and construction and demolition waste. No putrescible waste is currently accepted at the facility or proposed to be accepted.

Quantity of waste (tpa)	60,000 (see below)
Prescribed date for application	1/10/99
Application received	17/01/00
Environmental Impact Statement Required	Yes
Number of Submissions Received	1

SITE VISITS

Date	Observations	Personnel
06/09/00	Site notice compliant	D. Shannon
14/02/01	Site visit	M. McHugh

(2) Facility Development

Noel Murphy Waste Disposal Ltd. collects waste from businesses and households in the North Dublin area and is involved in skip-hire. Full skips are collected by the company and brought to the transfer station where they are weighed and unloaded. Condition 5.2.2 requires that a report be submitted setting out procedures for the acceptance and handling of wastes, including the segregation of and storage of incoming waste, and operational practices with regard to plant and machinery storage and maintenance. The infrastructure currently onsite includes a weighbridge, a shed, a timber shredder, site offices (portacabins) and a puroflow system for sewage treatment.

Concrete hardstanding was provided in some areas of the facility within the last year. Condition 3.5 requires that all areas used for the handling and storage of waste should be covered in hardstanding within 6 months of the date of grant of the licence. There is currently

a transfer building at the facility, which is roofed but not fully walled. Condition 3.7 requires that the building should be walled in order to minimise dust and litter problems. A biocycle wastewater treatment system is currently used onsite to treat foul sewage. The applicant proposes that all other runoff from the facility will discharge to a surface water drain via an oil interceptor. However, I consider this proposal to be unsatisfactory and therefore Condition 3.11.1 requires that a foul water treatment plant is provided and maintained onsite for the treatment of all foul water arising (not just foul sewage). Other runoff (for example clean roof runoff and runoff) from areas not used for the handling and storage of waste will discharge to a surface water drain via a Class 1 oil interceptor. Plant and equipment at the facility will include a timber shredder and equipment to be used for the handling and recovery of construction and demolition waste. The applicant did not propose to have any fuel storage areas at the facility. However Condition 3.12 requires that a bunded fuel storage area be provided and maintained at a location to be agreed with the Agency.

During the course of the application process the red line boundary which defines the facility was altered in order to exclude a shed, used for agricultural purposes owned by the landowner. Condition 3.4 requires that an alternative access route to the shed be provided within three months of the date of grant of the licence.

(3) Waste Types and Quantities

Information in relation to the application was received on several different dates and there was some conflicting information given from time to time for example with regard to the quantity of waste applied for. In the original application received on 17th January 2000 both the application form and attachments referred to the fact that the applicant proposed to handle **40,000** tpa of non-hazardous waste (25,000 tpa construction and demolition waste and 15,000 tpa of commercial and industrial waste). The E.I.S. received on the 11th August 2000 referred to the same quantities as in the original application. Information received on 2nd May 2001 as part of a response to an Art 14 notice (under Article 12-application reply) stated that *'figures indicate that the site will accept 60,000 tonnes in 2001. It is estimated that this figure will increase to 80,000 tonnes pa in 2001 and again to 95,000 in 2003... The company seeks approval for this highest amount'*. The response to the Article 14 notice (under Article 13-EIS reply) referred to a waste intake of 60,000 tpa. Therefore, this figure is provided for in Schedule A of the proposed decision.

Condition 5.2 and Schedule A control the types of waste to be accepted at the facility. Due to the proximity to Dublin airport and the potential risk to air traffic if significant numbers of birds were attracted to the facility no vegetable matter wastes, foodstuff wastes or garden wastes are permitted to be accepted. Hazardous waste, liquid waste and sludges are also prohibited.

(4) Emissions to Air

Noise monitoring results indicate that noise levels at the boundary of the facility are in excess of 55dBA day noise levels. The main noise impact can be attributed to traffic particularly air traffic from the nearby Dublin airport. Noise and dust monitoring requirements from the facility are established under Condition 8.1 and emission limits are set under Schedule C. Dust deposition limits are set under Schedule C.

(5) Emissions to Groundwater

All areas to be used for the handling and storage of waste will be covered in hardstanding within 4 months of the date of grant of the licence (Condition 3.5.2) and drainage from these areas, as well as foul sewage will be directed to an on-site wastewater treatment plant. The discharge from this treatment plant will comprise the only discharge to groundwater associated with the activities at the facility.

The groundwater vulnerability in the vicinity of the facility, according to the GSI classification is 'extreme' as there are only 2m thickness of unsaturated subsoils present. The aquifer category in the vicinity of the facility is L1 – locally important, moderately productive only in local zones. Guidance has recently been published (DELG/GSI/EPA, 2001) on 'Groundwater Protection Responses for On-site Wastewater Treatment Systems for Single Houses'. Considering the hydrogeological conditions at onsite I consider that the appropriate response to use is R2² as follows:

'A treatment system other than a conventional septic tank system as described in EPA (2000) is installed, with a minimum thickness of 0.6m unsaturated soil/subsoil with P/T values from 1 to 50 (in addition to the polishing filter which should be a minimum depth of 0.6m), beneath the invert of the polishing filter (i.e.1.2m in total for a soil polishing filter)'. This is required by Condition 3.11.1. Emissions to groundwater are controlled by Schedule C.

(6) Emissions to surface water

Surface water management is controlled by Condition 3.16. Only clean roof runoff and runoff from areas not used for the handling and storage of waste will be discharged to surface water. Discharge to surface water will be via a silt trap and a Class 1 interceptor, as required by Condition 3.13. Surface water will then discharge to an existing drain which runs along the roadside and was installed by Fingal County Council to collect road runoff. The drain eventually discharges to the Ward River. Emissions to surface water are controlled by Schedule C.

(7) Other Significant Environmental Impacts

None.

(8) Waste Management, Air Quality and Water Quality Management Plans

The Waste Management Plan for the Dublin Region 1999-2003 has been considered. The plan refers to the role of private operators in the management of waste in the Dublin region and the need to regulate the different waste streams including construction and demolition waste and commercial and industrial waste. It also refers to the need to increase the recycling of these waste streams.

(9) Submissions

One submission was made in relation to this application.

One letter was received from the Dept. of Arts, Heritage, Gealtacht and the Islands stating that there was no objection to the granting of this licence.

(10) Reasons for the Recommendation

It is recommended that a licence be granted for Classes 11, 12 and 13 of the Third Schedule and Classes 2, 3, and 4 of the Fourth Schedule as applied for in the application. In coming to this recommendation, I consider that these activities would, subject to the conditions of the recommended Proposed Decision, comply with the requirements of Section 40(4) of the Waste Management Act 1996.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

Maeve McHugh, Inspector.
Environmental Management and Planning.