

INSPECTORS REPORT

WASTE LICENCE REGISTER NUMBER 58-1

- Waste Disposal (Sligo) Ltd, Deepwater Quay, Sligo, Co. Sligo.
- **Recommendation:** That a Waste Licence be granted, subject to conditions.

(1) Introduction:

Waste Disposal (Sligo) Ltd (WDSL) has applied to continue the operation of an existing waste transfer station in the town of Sligo. The application for this facility was not received until 29/09/98 (prescribed date 01/05/98), hence the facility is unauthorised and does not comply with Section 39 of the Waste Management Act 1996. Given that the facility is unauthorised, as described above, BATNEEC applies to this facility from the date of grant of licence. An EIS was received with this application and was deemed to be in compliance with the Regulations on 8/12/99.

The facility is located adjacent to the Finisklin Industrial estate in the dock area of Sligo. It is approximately 1.5km from the centre of Sligo Town. Industrial operations (coal, oil and fishmeal storage), the old Sligo town landfill and the quay area to the north, bound the 0.9ha site. The majority of neighbours are of an industrial nature with a small number of apartments/houses located 200m to the south of the site.

Originally this building and associated yard space was a storage warehouse, with little infrastructure apart from the building shell. WDSL applied for a change of use, in order to commence operation as a waste transfer station. Planning permission was granted for this development, however following consideration by An Bord Peanála, the life of the site was extended from 3 to 10 years (*i.e.* December 2004). This may be extended if further planning permission is obtained. The facility is currently accepting approximately 25,000tpa (tonnes per annum) of waste.

The principal activity to be carried out on this site will be bulking and transfer of waste for disposal. Other classes licensed include recovery of metal, inorganics (glass and construction & demolition waste) and organics (plastic, wood and paper). Waste Disposal (Sligo) Ltd will also be required to maintain a Civic Waste Facility at this site. This PD permits Waste Disposal (Sligo) Ltd to accept 100,000 tonnes per annum of household, commercial, construction and demolition and industrial non-hazardous waste *as per* Schedule G.

(2) Facility development:

The existing building is approximately 30m x 70m x 10m. Waste tipping and handling is carried out on the floor. Waste is received in smaller vehicles (e.g. skips and rear collection vehicles for domestic door to door collection), processed (sorted and/or shredded) and loaded into articulated lorries for final transport to landfill. The building floor is concreted. An area outside the entrance to the building will require concreting as part of this Proposed Decision and the site will be surrounded by a 2m perimeter wall. A weighbridge and site office are currently in place on site. The applicant has applied to accept maximum of 100,000tpa of waste.

With regard to the operating capacity of the facility, the applicant will be required to provide 100% duty capacity and 50% standby capacity on critical items of plant in order to ensure adequate processing capacity is available at the facility (Condition 4 – Waste handling plant). There will also be a requirement for the provision of back up and spares for these critical items. Items critical for the efficient and adequate processing of waste on this site would include *inter alia* loading vehicles and sorting lines. Condition 4 – Waste handling plant, also states that the licensee shall not accept

waste quantities in excess of the duty capacity of the waste handling and processing equipment on site at that time.

The applicant currently carries out recovery of certain waste types accepted at the facility. This includes the acceptance of waste deposited by members of the public. While a number of wastes are accepted from the public for recovery at present, the infrastructure is haphazard and located in a number of areas around the facility. The applicant will be required to formalise this waste acceptance situation by providing a dedicated Civic Waste Facility on the site (Condition 4.11). It is likely that this will be located in the south-eastern yard.

The applicant will be required submit a proposal to the Agency regarding the recovery of the following wastes being accepted at the facility:

- Recovery of Construction and Demolition waste (C&D Waste)
- Recovery of organic materials (including paper, green waste, wood and cardboard)
- Recovery of glass
- Recovery of metals.

This Proposed Decision allows waste acceptance during the following hours (as applied for):

- 8am – 5:30pm Monday to Friday inclusive and;
- 8am – 2pm on Saturdays.

Processing may be carried out after waste acceptance has stopped during the ‘Working day of the Facility’ *i.e.* 8am – 7:30pm Monday to Friday and 8am – 4pm on Saturday, as applied for. This could include cardboard baling, wood chipping *etc.*

Name of Applicant	<i>Waste Disposal (Sligo) Ltd.</i>
Facility Name(s)	<i>Waste Disposal (Sligo) Ltd.</i>
Facility Address	<i>Deepwater Quay, Sligo, Co. Sligo.</i>
Description of Principal Activity	<i>Waste transfer for disposal to landfill.</i>
Quantity of waste (tpa)	<i>100,000</i>
Environmental Impact Statement Required	<i>Yes</i>
Date Application Received	<i>29/9/98</i>
Number of Submissions Received	<i>One</i>

SITE VISITS:

DATE	PURPOSE	PERSONNEL	OBSERVATIONS
<i>13/1/99</i>	<i>Site Notice Inspection</i>	<i>Peter Carey</i>	<i>Site notice complies</i>
<i>22/6/99</i>	<i>Site Notice Inspection</i>	<i>Peter Carey</i>	<i>Site notice complies with increased tonnage applied for.</i>
<i>17/5/00</i>	<i>Transfer of licence visit</i>	<i>Cormac Mac Gearailt, Peter Carey, Michael Henry</i>	<i>Site located in industrial area with some history of metal and waste recycling.</i>
<i>12/9/00</i>	<i>Site Inspection</i>	<i>Cormac Mac Gearailt, Kealan Reynolds.</i>	<i>To inspect the site and surrounds</i>

(3) Waste Types and Quantities

Waste acceptance is currently approximately 25,000tpa. The applicant is applying to accept a maximum of 100,000tpa.

The following are the waste types to be accepted at the facility:

- Household
- Commercial
- Construction and Demolition
- Industrial Non-hazardous

(4) Emissions to Air

Possible emissions to air from the facility include odour, noise and dust. Waste storage and processing (including wood chipping) is currently taking place outside of the waste transfer building. This Proposed Decision will require that all waste processing shall be carried out inside of the waste transfer building.

This license permits the processing of waste up to 100,000tonnes per annum. Currently approximately 25,000tpa of waste is processed. It is likely that increased waste quantities will result in increased emissions from the facility, particularly with regard to dust and odour. The licensee will be required to install a dust and odour management and abatement system at this facility within 24 months of date of grant of licence. This will include a requirement for negative pressure to be maintained in the waste transfer building and adequate odour and dust abatement of extracted air. Back ups, spares and 50% stand by capacity must be provided for the efficient and effective operation of this abatement system.

The applicant will be precluded from storing waste for disposal on site for longer than 48 hours (until the next working day in the case of bank holiday weekends). Waste for disposal stored overnight must be in covered and enclosed containers held inside the waste transfer building. All dry wastes stored for recovery must be stored in suitably covered containers. This is envisaged to include baled cardboard, glass, metal and inert materials. Monitoring requirements and an emission limit value for dust deposition (350mg/m^3) are also set, in order to control any fugitive dust emission from activities on site. Noise emission limits are specified in Schedule F. Condition 7.6 will ensure that there shall be no clearly audible tonal component or impulsive component in the noise emissions from the activity at the noise sensitive locations.

(5) Emissions to Groundwater

The results of groundwater monitoring carried out as part of application indicate that the major influence on groundwater quality in the area is from the old Sligo town landfill, located to the rear of the site. Groundwater quality downgradient of the site is of significantly better quality than upgradient *i.e.* Ammonia 16mg/l upgradient vs. <0.05mg/l downgradient. As stated above the licensee will be required to carry out waste processing within the waste transfer building. The applicant will be required to monitor the quality of the groundwater beneath the site on an annual basis as part of this Proposed Decision. In addition, fuel tanks on site must be banded.

(6) Emissions to Surface Waters

Currently, surface water from the site is discharged with surface water from an adjacent fishmeal plant. Four toilets also discharge directly to the surface water system.

This system discharges to the Garavogue estuary approximately 100m downstream of the untreated sewage outfall from Sligo town. The applicant has proposed to separate surface and foul water at some time in the future when the Sligo municipal waste water treatment plant (WWTP) is constructed. The local authority was contacted with regard to the construction timeframe of the WWTP, and it stated that the WWTP will not be installed in the near future. They were unable to provide any potential timeframe for its construction. In light of this, the applicant will be required to submit to the Agency a programme for improvements to the foul/surface water system within 12 months of date of grant of licence. This shall consist of the separation of foul and storm water drainage systems, treatment of foul discharges to include biological treatment, silt trap and oil/water separator, and provision of sampling facilities and a shut off valve. Subsequent to this 12 month time period the limits for foul water and surface water emissions under Schedule F2 and F3 of this Proposed Decision shall apply. The applicant will be required to visually inspect the surface and foul water emission on a weekly basis and monitor said emissions on quarterly basis for chemical components (BOD, pH etc.).

(7) Other Significant Environmental Impacts of the Development

None

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

Consideration was given to the Draft Connaught Waste Management Plan. This plan refers to the need for the provision of facilities in Sligo carrying out the following activities; sorting and baling of recyclable waste, collection of green waste, recovery of construction and demolition waste, recovery of glass, metals and white goods. Reference is also made to the need for a waste recycling station in Sligo, preferably at a location close to the town rather than at a landfill. It is envisaged that a number of these activities will be carried out at this facility.

(9) Submissions/Complaints

1. Submission from Mr Vincent Roche of the North Western Fisheries Board [Date Received 7/1/00].

This submission refers to the following:

1. Suitable storage of batteries on site and markets for their outlet

The submitter states that batteries held on site will not be held in suitable receptacles, and that the applicant has no market for such batteries. The submitter states that there is a danger that batteries will be stockpiled on site.

RESPONSE

Under Condition 5 Waste Acceptance and Handling, the applicant will be required to provide an adequate storage receptacle for this waste type.

The applicant is licensed to accept batteries at the civic waste facility (*see* Part I: Activities Licensed - Class 13 of the Fourth Schedule). Condition 1.5 of this Proposed Decision requires that batteries shall be stored in separate and adequate containers within the civic waste facility. There is no proposal within this application to stockpile batteries on site. No stockpiles of batteries were observed during any visits to this site.

With regard to an outlet for batteries, there are companies who specialise in the recovery of old batteries. Condition 5.9 of this PD requires that the ultimate recovery

or disposal facility for all wastes shall be agreed in advance with the Agency. It also requires that all wastes removed off-site for recovery or disposal shall be transported in a manner which will not adversely affect the environment.

2. Monitoring of surface water emissions

The submitter states that since there is a significant possibility that blockages could occur in the surface water system on site, that the frequency of surface water monitoring should be more than what was proposed in the application. The applicant stated that monitoring would occur only after a connection has been made to the proposed Sligo municipal waste water treatment plant. The submitter suggests that weekly sampling be carried out.

RESPONSE

Under Condition 4 Site Infrastructure, the applicant will be required to carry out improvements to the foul/surface water system on site within 12 months of date of grant of licence. This shall consist of the separation of foul and storm water drainage systems, treatment of foul discharges to include biological treatment silt trap and oil/water separator, and provision of sampling facilities and a shut off valve. Monitoring of this emission to surface water will be required on a weekly basis for visual inspection and quarterly for chemical parameters (*see* Schedule E). It is considered that such monitoring requirements shall adequately control surface and foul water emissions from this site.

3. Emergency storage of contaminated water on site

The submitter states that water storage provisions should be put in place in order to store any contaminated water that may arise due to unexpected occurrences.

RESPONSE

The requirement for the provision of a 10cm ramp in the waste transfer building will provide for containment of wash-water within the building (approximately 210m³). There will also be storage available in the silt trap and interceptor which are required under the terms of this Proposed Decision, in the case of the shut off valve being closed. Under Condition 10.1 of this Proposed Decision the applicant will be required to prepare an Emergency Response Plan to address emergencies which may arise at the facility.

4. Impact of the waste transfer station on local watercourses

The submitter states that the impact of continuing an untreated emission to the estuary of the Garavogue river in the absence of the Sligo WWTP has not been adequately dealt with in the EIS. The submitter states that due to the important nature of fisheries in the receiving water that treatment of any contaminated wasters arising from this facility is required.

RESPONSE

The EIS accompanying this application was deemed to be in compliance with Article 13(i) of the Waste Management (Licensing) Regulations on 8/12/99. In order to ameliorate any environmental impact of emissions from this facility to the Garavogue estuary, the applicant will be required to the improve the foul/surface water system on site and install treatment as outlined in response 3 above. This will include adequate handling and treatment of wash water arising on the site. Subsequent to the agreement and installation of these works the emission limit values for foul water and surface water emissions as specified in Schedule F2 and F3 will apply.

Signed _____

Dated:

Name: *Cormac Mac Gearailt*

APPENDIX 1

LOCATION PLAN

- 1. Figures 2.3.1 and 2.3.2 of the EIS.*