

MEMO			
TO:	Board of Directors	FROM:	Malcolm Doak
CC:		DATE:	15 December 2003
SUBJECT: Westmeath Co Co. Marlinstown Landfill Review. Mullingar. Technical Committee Report on Objections to Proposed Decision – Reg. No. 71-2			

Application Details	
Applicant:	Westmeath Co Co
Location of Activity:	Marlinstown Bog, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath.
Reg. No.:	71-2
Proposed Decision issued on:	01/09/2003
Inspector:	Caoimhin Nolan

Objections Received	Date Received
A/Director of Services, Westmeath Co Co, the applicant.	26 September 2003

Consideration of the Objections.

The Technical Committee (Malcolm Doak, Chairperson, Johnathan Derham (committee members)) have considered all of the issues raised and this report details the Committee's comments and recommendations following the examination of the objection on this facility.

OBJECTION No. 1:

A/Director of Services, Westmeath Co Co

GROUND 1

Condition 4.3.1.

Westmeath Co Co object to the condition on the basis that wording for final capping is restrictive and does not enable other design alternatives.

Technical Committee's Evaluation

The Technical Committee note that the final capping specified in Condition 4.3.1 is BAT as set out in the Agency Landfill Manual and the EU Landfill Directive. The Condition gives room for design changes at items (c) and (d), the drainage layer and mineral layer respectively. The final capping aspects are a crucial part of any gas collection design, but particularly so at this landfill which poses significant landfill gas risk to properties located south and west of the facility, including a busy petrol station less than 50m distance.

Recommendation

No Change

GROUND 2

Condition 4.3.1 (c)

Westmeath Co Co object to the condition on the basis that it does not enable other design alternatives and specifically the use of a geosynthetic material for the drainage layer.

Technical Committee’s Evaluation

The Technical Committee consider that the wording of Condition 4.3.1 (c) as it stands does allow design changes provided that the material used is of equivalent or better performance.

Recommendation

No Change

GROUND 3

Condition 4.5(a)

Westmeath Co Co object to the condition on the basis that it required the landfill to be final capped within nine months of the date of grant of licence. Such a requirement is too onerous within such a limited time span. As a public body Westmeath Co Co must plan financial expenditure and tender out such work. The applicant requests that the timescales for final capping be amended to give them more time to September 2006 (approx three years).

Technical Committee’s Evaluation

The landfill ceased accepting waste on 31 December 2002, and the existing Waste Licence (71-1) issued on 15 February 2001 required final capping by 31 March 2003 (Condition 4.15.3 of 71-1). The Technical Committee is of the opinion that Condition 4.5 (a) of the proposed decision allows the licensee an adequate flexibility in the timeline for final capping up to a new date of September 2004, given that final capping was already a requirement in the last licence. Final capping is a necessity to deal with the landfill gas migration risks already addressed above in Ground 1.

Recommendation

No Change

GROUND 4

Condition 3.13.1

Westmeath Co Co object to the condition on the basis that it is too time restrictive. Although the facility has 8 gas collection wells installed, further time is required for gas testing and calculations to determine the size of the gas flaring unit, and its installation. The applicant proposes that the existing date of March 2004 contained in the proposed decision be amended to June 2004.

Technical Committee’s Evaluation

The existing Waste Licence (71-1) required the installation of a flare by 31 December 2002 (Condition 4.14.1 of 71-1). The Technical Committee is of the opinion that the landfill gas flare is required immediately to deal with the landfill gas risks already addressed above in Ground 1.

Recommendation

No Change

Signed: _____
Malcolm Doak
Technical Committee Chairperson

Dated: _____
15 December 2003