

INSPECTORS REPORT

WASTE LICENCE REGISTER NUMBER 142-1

APPLICANT: Cork County Council

FACILITY: Macroom Civic Waste Facility, Codrum, Macroom

INSPECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION: That the waste licence be granted subject to conditions.

(1) Introduction:

The proposed site (2.4 ha approx.) is located just over 1km west of the town of Macroom in the townland of Codrum, adjoining the main road (N22) between Cork and Killarney. It is currently a green field site. It is proposed to develop a civic waste facility aiming to serve the waste recycling and waste disposal needs of the general public in the town of Macroom and environs. The site currently contains hedgerow and small areas of broadleaf woodland, outcrops of sandstone and siltstone, grassland and bracken. A spring originates in the northwest corner of the site in a wetland area and meets another stream which flows roughly N-S through the middle of the site and then flows eastwards along the southern boundary of the site before it joins the Sullane River. The proposed layout of the civic waste site will preserve the course of the existing stream running through the site by culverting it under parts of the hardstanding areas (Condition 3.12). The proposed developments will not involve the removal of broad-leaf trees but will be restricted to mainly grassland areas. Additional landscaping proposals include the planting of native deciduous trees around the perimeter of the proposed civic waste part of the site, a planted bed at the entrance etc.

DATE OF VISIT	PURPOSE	PERSONNEL	OBSERVATIONS
09/10/00	Site notice check	M. McHugh	Site notice compliant

(2) Facility Development:

The civic waste facility is to be constructed in concrete hardstanding on two levels. On the upper level members of the public will be allowed access to deposit their waste in the receptacles provided. The outer, lower level will be accessed only by trucks/lorries accessing these receptacles to remove waste e.g. waste contractors. The civic waste facilities will be for domestic use only and no commercial vehicles will be allowed access to the facilities to deposit waste (Condition 5.3). Activities applied for are Class 13 of the 3rd Schedule of the WMA, 1996 (storage) and Classes 2, 3, 4, and 13 of the 4th Schedule (recycling and storage). Receptacles will be provided on site for the following waste types: glass, beverage cans and textiles, paper and plastic bottles, waste oils and household hazardous waste, wood, tyres, cardboard, green waste, white goods, construction and demolition waste from households and waste for disposal. All waste stored on site will be in sealable containers. Composting activities were not included in the application. Under Class 2 of the 4th Schedule however, composting is permitted on site subject to a maximum annual quantity of 2000 tonnes per annum for composting.

Members of the public will be encouraged to segregate their waste in the following way: members of the public using the recycling banks on the west side of the facility i.e. glass, beverage cans and textiles will not be charged. However a fee will be levied to persons using the waste compactors on site for residual waste. It is proposed that the residual fraction of the waste (described by EWC code 20 03 01 'mixed municipal waste') will be transported to a materials recovery facility in the Cork area once one becomes available. Until this time it will be taken to landfill. Private vehicles entering

the site will proceed to the upper level of the site where a site operative will note the type and approximate quantity of the waste and provide any assistance as required.

It is envisaged by the applicant that the operation of the site will continue indefinitely. Condition 4.1 therefore requires that the restoration and aftercare plan be agreed prior to the decommissioning of the site.

(3) Waste Types and Quantities

The quantities of waste applied for are based on estimated projections for waste quantities arising at the facility over the next 20 years. It is assumed that there will be a 5% per annum increase in the rate of waste deposited at the facility between 2002 and 2006. The annual tonnage applied for is 5,000 tpa and is an average tonnage per annum over a 20yr projection period.

Quantity of waste (tpa)	5,000
Of which household hazardous waste	40
Environmental Impact Statement Required	No
Number of Submissions Received	0

(4) Emissions to Air

Dust deposition levels measured during a baseline survey during the period 07/07/00 to 08/08/00 showed dust emissions between 49 and 152 mg/m²/day at the four sampling locations. The higher levels were at the sampling points nearest to the main road. Odour will be controlled on site by operational practices. The timeframes for the storage of waste on site are controlled by conditions: 5.5.8, 5.5.9, 5.5.10 and 5.5.11.

Background noise monitoring carried out at the site on 07/07/00 showed that passing traffic and adjacent construction works was the major noise contributor. L_{aeq} (30 mins) levels varied between 47.2dB(A) and 73.0dB(A) with the highest levels being recorded near the main road. The main noise generating sources at the proposed site (after the initial construction period) will include the following: traffic at the facility, adjacent construction activities, occasionally trucks hauling waste from the site. There will also be two small waste compactors on site for compacting the residual waste fraction. It is envisaged that this site should not cause a nuisance with regard to noise. Noise emission limit values have been set in the proposed decision as 55 daytime dB (A) L_{Aeq}(30 minutes) and 45 night-time dB(A) L_{Aeq}(30 minutes).

(4) Emissions to Groundwater/ Hydrogeology

The risk to groundwater arising from activities at this site is low. All waste activities will be carried out in on concrete hardstanding. Foul water generated at the control building will either be diverted to the local authority sewer or treated on site. The waste inspection area and the area designated for the storage of household hazardous waste will be banded. All other runoff from the site will be diverted to a holding tank via a grit trap and oil separator and from there to a soak pit/ percolation area which shall satisfy the criteria set out in the Wastewater Treatment Manual, *Treatment Systems for Single Houses*, published by the Environmental Protection Agency.

(5) Emissions to Surface Water

Clean roof runoff will be diverted to the surface water stream running through the site. Foul water generated at the control building/site office will be diverted to sewer or to an on site waste water treatment system.

(6) Other Significant Environmental Impacts of the Development

A number of features of archaeological interest in the area of the site were noted as part of a desk study carried out during the preparation of the application. It is stated in the study that a number of archaeological sites do exist in the townlands of Codrum and Rockborough but that the proposed development will not affect these. It is also stated that while numerous artefacts have been recorded in Macroom – none have been recorded in the townlands of Codrum or Rockborough. Condition 8.5 requires that prior to the development of the site the advice of Duchas the heritage service be sought and an on-site archaeological assessment carried out.

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

Waste Management Plans

‘One of the principal goals of the Waste Management Strategy adopted by Cork County Council and Cork Corporation in 1995 is the realisation of the recycling targets set within the scope of the Strategy’. Civic waste facilities such as this one could assist in achieving recycling targets. Cork County Council’s Waste Management Plan does not however make reference to specific Civic Waste Facility sites such as this one.

Air Quality Management Plan

No relevant plan exists.

Water Quality Management Plan

No relevant plan exists.

(8) Submissions/Complaints

None to date 20/03/01.

(9) Reasons for the Recommendation

The recommendation is that a waste licence be granted, subject to Conditions. It is not proposed to refuse any activities applied for. The operation of proposed facility poses a very low risk to the environment. It is also considered that the facility operations, carried out in accordance with the proposed licence will be an advantage to the local community.

Signed _____
Maeve McHugh

Dated: 22/03/2001

Inspector, Environmental Management & Planning.