INSPECTORS REPORT
WASTE LICENCE REGISTER NUMBER 147-1
Ashgrove Plant Limited (trading as Ashgrove Recycling) Churchfield Industrial Estate, Cork
Recommendation: That a Licence subject to condition be granted

(1) Introduction:

Ashgrove Plant Ltd have applied to operate a new waste transfer station and recycling facility on a 1.1 ha greenfield site at Churchfield Industrial Estate, Churchfield, on the north-western edge of the City of Cork. The construction of the transfer station including site development has commenced at the site. Planning permission was granted for this facility based on information submitted by the applicant detailing an acceptance rate of 25,000 tonnes of waste per annum. However, it should be noted that the applicant submitted an EIS for the facility to the Agency based on an acceptance rate of 50,000 tonnes of waste per annum. This is the quantity allowable under the recommended PD.

Ashgrove Plant Ltd. are seeking a licence to accept non-hazardous wastes (primarily construction and demolition and commercial waste) at this facility. The wastes will be processed within a Materials Recovery Building where the recyclable materials (e.g. glass, metal, cardboard, wood, woodchips, soils, stone, plastic, paper etc) will be removed and the residual waste sent to landfill. The quantity of waste to be accepted at the facility is limited to 50,000 tonnes per annum. Ashgrove also propose to construct a small dedicated sand and gravel storage area at the proposed development. This will be used to supply their customers with washed sand and gravel material (from a nearby quarry) should they request it. The applicant also provides a skip hire service for private individuals.

Industrial premises bound the site to the East and Southeast of which some of the buildings are in the order of 10m high. The materials recovery building itself will stand 12m above ground level.

The closest residential houses at Nashs Boreen (approximately 15-20 domestic residences) situated to the North/Northwest are located within approximately 0.2/0.3km of the proposed development. A FAS training building lies at a distance of approximately 60m from the proposed facility and approximately 10m from the site boundary. Munster Glass lies approximately at a distance of 100m South/SouthWest of the proposed facility and approximately 25m from the boundary of the facility.

The applicant has estimated a total of 80-100 vehicle movements per day.

The applicant has stated in his application that the hours of operation *will be from 7:30 am to 7:30 pm Monday to Friday with a half day on Saturday*. In light of noise considerations (see Section 4) I have proposed that waste shall only be accepted and processed at the facility as stated under Condition 1.7 of the recommended PD.

A plan showing the location of the facility to which the application relates is provided in Appendix 1.

The applicant has applied for the following classes of activity:

Licensed Waste Disposal Activities, in accordance with the Third Schedule of the Waste Management Act 1996

Class 13.	**Storage prior to submission to any activity referred to in a preceding paragraph of this Schedule, other than temporary storage, pending collection, on the premises where the waste concerned was produced.**
	Reason: This activity is limited to storage prior to bulking and transfer of waste for disposal off site.

Licensed Waste Recovery Activities, in accordance with the Fourth Schedule of the Waste Management Act 1996

Class 2.	**Recycling or reclamation of organic substances which are not used as solvents (including composting and other biological transformation processes):**
	This activity is limited to the recovery of cardboard, paper, wood and plastic.
Class 3.	**Recycling or reclamation of metals and metal compounds:**
	This activity is limited to the recovery of steel and metals.
Class 4.	**Recycling or reclamation of other inorganic materials:**
	This activity is limited to glass, construction and demolition waste and other inert wastes.
Class 13.	**Storage of waste intended for submission to any activity referred to in a preceding paragraph of this Schedule, other than temporary storage, pending collection, on the premises where such waste is produced:**
	This activity is limited to the storage of waste prior to recovery.

Quantity of waste applied for (tpa)	50,000 tonnes
Environmental Impact Statement Required and valid	Yes and I have assessed it in accordance with the European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 1999.
Number of Submissions Received	0

SITE VISITS:

DATE	PURPOSE	PERSONNEL	OBSERVATIONS
28/04/01	Check Site Notice and facility surrounds	B. Foley	Non Compliant
29/04/01	Check Site Notice	B.Foley	Compliant
22/11/01	Site & Environs Check	B. Foley	Inspect facility & environs

(2) Facility Development

The main infrastructure proposed by the applicant includes the Materials Recovery Building and associated office, CCTV, weighbridge, wheelwash, waste quarantine area (internally in the materials recovery building), parking/skip storage areas, a 1350 litre fuel tank within a bunded area and a small dedicated washed sand and gravel storage area. The recommended Proposed Decision (PD) makes provision for this infrastructure. The following items of waste processing plant are proposed: grab, Rotating Tommel 830 Screen Intake hopper with associated conveyor, wood chipper, rubble crusher, loading shovel vehicles, articulated vehicles, ejector trailers and a compactor to reduce compactable waste volume. The recommended PD requires the applicant to have adequate duty and standby capacity for all items of plant deemed critical for the processing of waste.

All wastes entering the facility will be inspected at the entrance to the site and in the waste transfer building. The main waste transfer building will be 24m x 30m x 12m high and the contents of skips will be emptied onto the floor prior to being pushed into the intake pit and

the recyclable fraction (C&D material, cardboard, glass, wood, plastics, metals, paper) of the waste removed. The rotating Trommel 830 screen is the main operation in the whole process. The applicant has proposed that large rubble will be sent to a crusher. The location of this crusher must have the prior agreement of the Agency. Wood that is separated from the other waste material will be further processed at the facility by sending it through a wood chipper. This material will then be sold as a source of fuel for boilers and/or feedstock for landscaping or similar chip using activities. Ejector trailers will be used to transport unrecoverable waste to landfill and recovered materials to their respective recycling industries. All waste that is transferred from the facility to other facilities must be agreed by the Agency.

Security at the site shall be provided by the erection of a 1.0m high wall, topped with a 2m high security steel palisade fence to encompass the perimeter and landscaped with trees.

Foul water (including sewage, drainage from the Materials Recovery Building, wheelwash contaminated surfacewater etc.) which is generated on site will be discharged to Cork City Council foul sewer. The consent conditions outlined in Cork City Council's Section 52 response have been included in the recommended PD.

Ashgrove also propose to construct a small dedicated sand and gravel storage area at the proposed development. These storage areas will hold approximately $10m^3$ each of both washed sand and gravel. This is controlled under Condition 7.6 of the recommended PD.

The entire site will be impermeable hardstand, with the exception of some landscaped areas.

(3) Waste Types and Quantities

The applicant has applied to accept 50,000 tonnes of waste annually consisting primarily of Construction and Demolition waste (25,000 tonnes) non-hazardous commercial waste (23,000 tonnes), and industrial waste (2000 tonnes). The applicant has stated that upto 80-85% of waste accepted into the facility is recoverable in one form or another. This equates to 40,000 tonnes of recoverable material annually with up to 10,000 tonnes of residual waste, which will be compacted prior to being sent to the landfill.

(4) Emissions to Air

Monitoring requirements and an emission limit for dust deposition ($350mg/m^3$) are set in order to control any fugitive dust emission from activities on site. The applicant will be required to install dust curtains on entry/exit door to the Materials Recovery Building and the installation of a permanent dust/odour suppression system. Waste for disposal is required to be stored in sealed covered containers within the recovery building and removed off-site within forty eight hours of its acceptance at the facility.

Noise emission limits are specified in Schedule F of the recommended PD and limits of 45dB(A)L_{Aeq} and 55 dB(A) L_{Aeq} are applied for nighttime and daytime, respectively. The predicted contribution of noise from the operations within the buildings without modifications at the nearest dwellings to the North is 43dB $L_{Aeq,07\text{-}19\ hours}$ and at the FAS building is 58dB$L_{Aeq,07:00\text{-}19:00\ hours.}$ The noise level of 58dBL_{Aeq} is slightly greater than the criterion of 55 dBL_{Aeq} and therefore mitigation measures are necessary to comply with the limit of 55 dBL_{Aeq}.

The applicant has suggested that the selection of a double skinned cladding system with a perforated inner liner and a sound absorbing mineral fibre infill would reduce the noise build-up within the Materials Recovery Building. The resultant effect should be a reduction of 3 dB (A) in the predicted noise to the FAS Building to 55 dB $_{Laeq}$. Noise mitigation are required to be be installed by the applicant within the Materials Recovery Building (Condition 7.3.1 of the recommended PD). The applicant also proposes that the facility will be bounded by a 10m deep band of dense trees to the North, East and South of the facility, that will be at least three metres high. The applicant in the application have anticipated that this will provide further

reductions in noise levels to the FAS building and the dwellings to the North. Noise reduction measures are to be taken into account when landscaping the facility (Condition 5.7.1) and the applicant must implement a noise reduction programme (Condition 7.3.1). The doors of the Materials Recovery Building are also to be kept shut when heavy machinery such as the trommel is being used (Condition 5.3.2). Condition 6.5 of the recommended PD 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

There will be no emissions to groundwater. Groundwater wells are not a feature of the area and the area is served by a public water supply. As stated above, the site will be concreted and all fuel tanks must be bunded.

(6) Emissions to Stormwater and Foulwater Sewers

Uncontaminated surface water discharging from the site will discharge to the Cork City Council stormwater sewer via a Class 2 interceptor to the North of the facility. This has being conditioned under Conditions 3.11 and 6.6.1 of the recommended PD. All foul water effluent including domestic effluent shall discharge to the Cork City Council foul sewer (Condition 6.7.1).

(7) Other Significant Environmental Impacts of the Development

There will be a noticeable impact when the facility is viewed from the houses to the North of the site. The facility will be integrated by landscaping with trees along the perimeter (Condition 5.7.1).

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

The Cork Waste Management Plan which was adopted in May 1999 makes reference to the provision of '*a network of solid waste transfer stations in Co. Cork which will allow for the efficient and economic transport of waste*'. The proposed development is in line with such provisions.

(9) Submissions

No submissions were submitted on this application.

Signed _____ Dated:

Mr. Brendan Foley
Inspector, Environmental Management & Planning

APPENDIX 1
LOCATION MAP & LAYOUT PLAN