



**OFFICE OF  
LICENSING &  
GUIDANCE**

**LICENSING UNIT - INSPECTORS REPORT TO THE BOARD**

<b>TO:</b>	Board of the Agency
<b>FROM:</b>	Helen Maher
<b>DATE:</b>	21/05/04
<b>RE:</b>	Application for a Waste Licence from, Height for Hire (Allied Services) Ltd., Licence Register 154-1

Application Details	
Type of facility:	Waste Transfer Station
Class(es) of Activity ( <b>P</b> = principal activity):	3 <sup>rd</sup> Schedule: 11, 12, 13 4 <sup>th</sup> Schedule: 3, 4 ( <b>P</b> ), 12, 13
Quantity of waste managed per annum:	180,000 tonnes/annum
Classes of Waste:	Construction & Demolition waste for Recovery. Commercial, household & industrial wastes for Disposal.
Location of activity:	Mell, Drogheda, Co Louth.
Licence application received:	18 <sup>th</sup> May 2001
Third Party submissions:	4
EIS Required:	YES
Article 14 Notices sent:	27/09/'01, 29/07/'02,
Article 14 compliance date:	12/09/'02
Article 16 Notices sent:	27/09/'01, 27/09/'02, 18/12/'02, 19/06/'03
Article 16 Compliance date:	11/08/'03
Site Inspections:	14/03/'03

## 1 Activity

Height for Hire (Allied Services) Ltd., have operated a permitted C&D waste and commercial packaging waste transfer station situated north of Drogheda, since April 2001. The applicant has no legal offences or convictions under the Waste Management Act, 1996.

Height for Hire Ltd propose to build a construction and demolition waste recovery building and a municipal waste transfer building at the same location, for which a waste licence is required. Operations consist of the intake, separation, sorting of construction and demolition waste for recovery and the bulking of municipal solid waste for disposal.

The principal activity is Class 4 of the 4<sup>th</sup> Schedule of the Waste Management Act 1996, "Recycling or reclamation of other inorganic materials".

It is proposed to process up to 150,000tpa of C&D waste, and 30,000 of municipal solid waste at the facility. All the recyclable waste streams (concrete, soil, and clay fines, metals, timber, glass, plastics) will be separated and processed mechanically.

It is proposed that 9 people will be employed at the facility when fully operational. The operation benefits from full planning permission (Drogheda Borough Council 01/184 March 2003).

## **2 Operational Description**

Waste will only be accepted at the facility between the hours of 0800 and 1800hrs. Municipal solid waste will be directed to the waste transfer building, compacted and loaded into trailers for bulk transport to landfill. Unacceptable material is isolated in a quarantine area.

C&D waste collected via commercial and household skip hire, will be directed to the C&D waste recovery building, inspected and recoverable material (timber, metals) pulled out. Throughout the process there will be operator supervision and manual picking in support of the mechanised processes. The timber is shredded indoors. The remainder of the C&D material will be screened and sorted into different aggregate sizes for stockpiling outdoors. Any residual material will be transferred to the waste transfer building for bulk transport to landfill.

In the event of a fire, firewater produced will be collected in the retention tank (500m<sup>3</sup> capacity) and tankered off site to a Wastewater treatment plant.

## **3 Use of Resources**

Not significant. Hydraulic oil storage on-site for plant and vehicles. Electricity supplied for compactor, weighbridge etc. Water use onsite for cleansing and hygiene.

## **4 Emissions**

### **Emissions to ground and surfacewater**

The proposed facility is located on an old limestone quarry. The quarry was mined to below the water table in some parts and after the quarry closed, lakes formed in the open excavations, flooding to a level co-incident with the regional watertable. The facility overlies a regionally important aquifer.

The applicant proposes that storm water run-off from roads, roofs etc. will be discharged to the existing quarry lake via a grit trap and oil interceptor. (Condition 3.12.1) However a tertiary treatment system will need to be agreed with the Agency to "polish" any water prior to its discharge to the quarry lake, at an agreed outlet point. (Condition 6.4.3) This and specific monitoring for List I, List II substances at the tertiary treatment outlet will ensure compliance with Groundwater Regulations (SI No. 41 of 1999). (Schedule D Monitoring)

### **Emissions to sewer**

Any process water effluent or run off from hardstanding areas will be diverted to an effluent tank and pumped to the sewer mains. All Sanitary Authority consent conditions have been included in the PD. The Sanitary Authority stipulated that charges and payment frequency be agreed post operation of the proposed facility, depending on variation in effluent reception and treatment costs.

## **Air**

The closest residential property to this facility is 300m northeast which is downwind of the site. The C& D waste stockpiling area is located on a bench in the quarry, 16m below ground level at the N1 Road. The applicant proposed the operation of mobile plant (mechanical grab, rock crusher, magnetic separator, and trammel screen) outdoors for the recovery of C&D waste. During prolonged dry periods water will be used for the spraying of stockpiles and access roads. Given the facility design and the nature wastes to be processed, dust and odours are not expected to present any nuisance risk.

## **Noise & Nuisance**

All operations other than C&D waste recovery, and movement of containers, are carried out indoors. Consequently noise emissions are expected to be negligible.

All vehicles using the facility will be sheeted or fully enclosed. There will be an average of eighty vehicle movements per day over a ten hour working day.

## **5 Visual Impact**

The Height for Hire site is located in a disused limestone quarry. There are no direct views into the site for sensitive receptors, due to the fact that the site is below the surrounding ground level.

## **6 Cultural Heritage & Habitats**

There are three areas of conservation within 6Km of the proposed facility. The Boyne River Islands (cSAC 1Km South), the Boyne Coast & Estuary (SPA 5Km East), and King Williams Glen (pNHA 2Km west). The groundwater flow is in a southerly direction from the quarry lake to the River Boyne (salmonid river), which approaches to within 500m of the southern boundary of the Height for Hire site.

## **7 Waste Management Plans**

The proposal is fully compliant with the objectives of the North East Regional Waste Management Plan (1999-2004).

## **8 Environmental Impact Statement**

I have read and assessed the EIS and am satisfied that it complies with the requirements of the EIA and Licensing Regulations.

## **9 Proposed Decision**

Given the facility location in an old quarry site 16 metre below ground level, dust noise and odours are not expected to be significant nuisance to sensitive receptors. The applicant has operated at this facility under permit since 2001.

Following site visits, it is my opinion that historical waste infilling has been carried out at this site. The applicant is required to carry out a site investigation, to determine if any areas of this site have been filled in with waste. The results of this investigation shall be reported to the Agency and subsequent remediation measures agreed if necessary. (Condition 3.2)

The PD also stipulates that waste storage should be on hardstanding areas that drain to the foul sewer, while surface water drainage is subject to tertiary treatment to protect groundwater.

The Proposed Decision as recommended to the Board includes conditions in relation to the safe operation and management of the facility including, *inter alia*, the control and monitoring of processes and emissions; facility management, accident prevention, materials management; and environmental protection.

### **Closure & Aftercare**

Not a significant issue with this type of facility.

## **10 Submissions**

There were 4 Submissions made in relation to this application.

1. Dúchas had no objection to the application, other than to ensure that vermin control avoids risk of secondary poisoning to protected raptors. Condition 11.5.2 addressed this concern.
2. The Eastern Regional Fisheries Board had no objection to the application, other than to ensure that there is no contamination of ground or surface water from the proposed facility, (Condition 6.4) and that fire water retention facilities are provided. Condition 9.2 addressed this concern.
3. Premier Periclase (IPPP Register No. 376) expressed concern that discharge to the quarry lake from the proposed facility, would contaminate their industrial water source to the southeast. Condition 6.4 addressed this concern.
4. A complaint was received by the Office of Environmental Enforcement on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May 2004 from a local resident, with regard to illegal burning of waste at this site. Condition 9.4.3 stipulates no burning of waste at this facility.

## **11 Charges**

The annual charges (€ 11,201 ) reflect impact and regulatory burden a site such as this will present.

## **12 Recommendation**

I recommend that the Proposed Decision be issued subject to the conditions, and for the reasons, as drafted.

Signed

Dated:

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Ms. Helen Maher  
Inspector

**Procedural Note**

In the event that no objections are received to the Proposed Decision on the application, a licence will be granted in accordance with Section 43(1) of the Waste Management Acts 1996-2003.