

INSPECTORS REPORT

WASTE LICENCE REGISTER NUMBER 160-1

Applicant: Cork County Council

Facility: Castletownbere Waste Transfer Station, Foilddarrig, Castletownbere, Co. Cork

Inspector's Recommendation: The licence be granted subject to conditions.

(1) Introduction

The application is for a proposed Waste Transfer Station and recycling facility at Foilddarrig, Castletownbere, Co. Cork. It is proposed to accept 4000 tonnes per annum of non-hazardous municipal solid waste at the facility and up-to 300 tonnes of end-of-life vehicles per annum which gives a total of 4,300 tonnes per annum.

The facility will be situated on a disused former gravel pit, located on the western side of the R571 road, approximately 1.5km north of Castletownbere. There are approximately six residential dwellings within a 500m radius of the site. The land surrounding the proposed facility is predominantly agricultural and the Aghakista River flows north/south approximately 500m to the east of the proposed transfer station. Appendix 1 contains a location map (B.2.1) and a site layout drawing (2001-004-11-D.1.1) showing the significant features of the proposed facility.

Classes 12 and 13 of the Third Schedule and Classes 2, 3, 4 and 13 of the Fourth Schedule were applied for in the application. Class 12 of the Third Schedule is the Principal Activity.

Quantity of waste (tpa)	4,300 tpa
Prescribed date for application	20/05/98
Application received	01/08/01 (This is a new facility)
Environmental Impact Statement Required	No
Number of Submissions Received	None

FACILITY VISITS

Date	Observations	Personnel
29/08/01	Facility notice check Notice not erected	Sinead McMahon
27/9/01	Facility notice check (Compliant)	Sinead McMahon

(2) Facility Development

The main infrastructure proposed by the applicant and required by the proposed decision includes a site office, waste transfer building, weighbridge, waste inspection and quarantine area, on-site foulwater treatment system and fuel storage areas. Individual bins will be provided at the facility for the collection of recoverable/recyclable wastes including a hardstanding storage area for white goods.

The applicant has responded to local needs for the disposal of end-of-life vehicles. I consider that due to the distance from the nearest treatment facility in Cork City that it may be appropriate to allow the storage of limited numbers of ELVs at the facility. A hardstanding area will also be provided for the storage of end of life vehicles (ELV's) to be accepted at the facility. Due to their hazardous nature ELVs will only be accepted subject to stringent waste acceptance and handling procedures (Condition 5.2).

Provision will also be made for the acceptance and storage of domestic quantities of hazardous waste (c. 3 tonnes) at the facility.

It is proposed to transfer municipal solid waste from Refuse Collection Vehicles into a hopper and compactor. A hatch is to be provided in the side of the compactor hopper for waste delivered by private vehicles. Compacted waste will be stored in sealed haulage trailers. Trailers will be connected and disconnected from the compactor using a slave vehicle. Waste will be removed from the facility by a licensed haulier for disposal at a licensed facility.

Potential nuisances are controlled by Condition 7. All traffic movements will be on hardstanding and good management should ensure a wheelwash is not required. Condition 4.1 requires a proposal for a Decommissioning and Aftercare Plan to be submitted.

(3) Waste Types and Quantities

The applicant has proposed to accept 2,500 tpa household waste, 1500 tpa commercial waste per annum for transfer off-site. It is estimated that upto 300 tonnes of end-of-life vehicles could be accepted at the facility.

Individual bins will be provided at the facility for the collection of the following waste types for recovery/recycling; glass bottles, aluminium cans, textiles, metals, timber, paper, waste oils, batteries, fluorescent tubes and other household hazardous wastes such as solvent based paints/varnishes.

Hours for Waste Acceptance: 8.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Saturday inclusive.

Hours of Operation: 8.00am to 6.00pm Monday to Saturday inclusive.

(4) Emissions to Air

Noise monitoring results indicate that background noise levels at the facility entrance are in excess of 55dBA day-time noise levels. The main noise impact can be attributed to passing traffic. Noise and dust monitoring requirements for the facility are established under Schedule D and emission limits are set under Schedule C.

(5) Emissions to Groundwater

There should be no direct emissions to groundwater as Condition 3.5 specifies the installation of hardstanding at the facility. The recommended PD also requires that any area used for the storage of liquids or hazardous waste be fully bunded.

Asuitable hardstanding area is also required for the handling of the end-of-life vehicles with drainage from this area directed via an interceptor to an on-site WWTP. Foul water generated at the site office and run-off from waste storage and processing areas is required to be diverted to an on-site treatment system. Treated effluent will discharge to a percolation area on site. Emission limits for discharges to the percolation area are specified in Schedule C.

(6) Emissions to surface water

Analysis was carried out on three samples taken from a drainage ditch which runs through the site. This analysis indicated that there is good background water quality at the site. Surface water run-off is required to be diverted via a class 1 full retention interceptor to an on-site drainage ditch. The drainage ditch discharges from the facility through a culvert pipe under the R571 road and ultimately to the Aghakista River. The Aghakista River discharges to the sea at Castletownbere. Surface water monitoring requirements are established under Schedule D and emission limits are set under Schedule C.

(7) Other Significant Environmental Impacts

None.

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

This facility is not specifically referred to in the Cork Waste Management Plan but it does state that the Cork County Council will provide a network of solid waste transfer stations in Cork County.

(9) Submissions

None

(10) Reasons for the Recommendation

It is recommended that a licence be granted for Classes 12 and 13 of the Third Schedule and Classes 2, 3, 4 and 13 of the Fourth Schedule as applied for in the application. I am satisfied, on the basis of the information available, that the waste activity, or activities, licensed hereunder will comply with the requirements of Section 40(4) of the Waste Management Act, 1996.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

Brian Donlon, Senior Inspector.
Environmental Management and Planning.