

INSPECTORS REPORT

WASTE LICENCE REGISTER NUMBER: 166-1

APPLICANT: Galway City Council

FACILITY: Sandy Road Waste Recovery Facility, Liosbán Industrial Estate, Galway City.

INSPECTOR: Mr. John Gibbons

INSPECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION: That a waste licence be granted subject to a number of conditions.

(1) Introduction

This application is for the Galway City Council, Sandy Road Waste Recovery Facility located in the Liosbán Industrial Estate, Sandy Road, Galway. At the time the waste licence application was lodged with the Agency (9/11/2001) the applicant was also to carry out the composting of waste at the facility. However composting ceased at the facility in December 2003 as such operations were transferred to Carrowbrowne Landfill Site in December 2003. The waste facility is located in a site also used as a depot for the City Council machinery and road maintenance equipment and outdoor staff. A plan showing the location and layout of the facility to which the application relates is provided in Appendix 1. The facility, which has a total area of approximately 1.8 ha. is located in an area zoned for light industry and commercial use. The facility is surrounded by commercial industrial units and also a residential complex which overlooks the facility. Some of the residences in the residential complex have a clear line of sight into the proposed facility. See Appendix 2 (photograph, view from the facility to the nearby residential complex).

The waste licence application is to accept 24,000 tonnes of municipal solid waste, street cleanings and household bulky goods. The facility was issued with a certificate of registration by the Agency (Register No R033-2) on 5th July 2001 in respect of the recovery and composting of waste.

Waste activities taking place on-site at present are: operation of the Civic Waste Facility, the recovery of road sweepings and small quantities of construction and demolition waste, the shredding of timber and green waste and the collection/bulking up of dry recyclables (e.g. tetra packs, paper, plastic bottles etc collected by Galway City Council as part of the separate collection system in operation throughout the City). The dry recyclables are collected and loaded onto a lorry for further processing at an EPA licensed facility in Dublin. Abandoned and end of life vehicles are also collected from around the City and stored at the facility prior to disposal at a licensed facility. Any non-recoverable waste collected is transferred for disposal in Poolboy Landfill (WL 27-2). Waste from litter pick-up trucks and street-cleaning vehicles is also brought back to the facility prior to removal by road to Poolboy Landfill.

The applicant has applied for Class 13 of the Third Schedule and Classes, 2, 3, 4, 11 and 13 of the Fourth Schedule of the Waste Management Act 1996. The recommended Proposed Decision (PD) provides for the licensing of these classes with the exception of Class 2 of the Fourth Schedule. The recommended PD prohibits composting of waste, as this no longer takes place. In view of the fact that the

composting activities previously took place outdoors and there are no proposals from the applicant to carry it on indoors, and given the facility's very close proximity to housing, it would be an unacceptable risk of significant environmental pollution (with particular regard to odour and noise) to licence this activity. In these circumstances, the Agency has no practical alternative but to refuse the activity. The recommended PD allows for the operation of a Civic Waste Facility.

Quantity of waste (tpa)	24000
Environmental Impact Statement	Not required.
Number of Submissions Received	9
Date application received	9/11/2001

Site Visits:

DATE	PURPOSE	PERSONNEL
30/11/01	Check Site Notice and undertake site inspection	Cormac Mc Gearailt
28/11/03	Most recent site visit as part of application WL 166-1	John Gibbons

(2) Facility Infrastructure

The infrastructure currently in place at the facility includes:

- Waste transfer building.
- Foul and surface water drainage systems (to incorporate a Class 1 oil interceptor).
- A weighbridge.
- Segregated areas for collection of street cleanings, timber and green waste, C&D waste and end of life vehicles.

Infrastructure proposed for the facility includes:

- Development of an awning in the waste processing area for waste quarantine, waste inspection and C&D waste handling.
- Installation of a picking line in the waste processing building.

(3) Waste Types and Quantities

The recommended PD provides for the acceptance of the various waste types specified in Schedule A.

(4) Management and Control of Emissions to the Environment

Surface water: Surface water runoff from the facility is collected in the on-site drainage system prior to its discharge via silt trap and oil interceptor to the Terryland Stream. The recommended PD provides for the monitoring of surface water discharges and limits are also specified in Schedule C.

Emissions to sewer: A Section 52 consent was received from Galway City Council with respect to emissions to sewer and its contents are included in the recommended Proposed Decision.

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

The Waste Management Plan for the Connaught Region 1999-2004 identifies Galway City as being one of the locations in the region which is suitable for the development of a civic waste-recycling depot. This need was also identified in the Galway City/County Waste Management Plan 1999- 2004.

(6) Submissions

Nine valid submissions were received in relation to this waste licence application. *The submissions related to the operation of the composting activities at the facility (now ceased). All of the submissions referred to the significant level of odour (from the compost process) in the vicinity of their residences /workplace. They also referred to the time of the day when the most noxious odour would arise i.e. evening time during the turning of the compost. Noise issues relating to the compost process was also considered.*

Response:

As stated in Section 1 of this report composting of waste no longer takes place at this facility.

Signed _____
John Gibbons, Inspector,
Office of Environmental Enforcement

Dated:

APPENDIX 1

Conditioning Plan Proposals Site Boundary & Layout DG0004 A02

*Please refer to Office Application file for
this map – marked with a yellow sticker*

APPENDIX 2

