

Section A

Non-Technical Summary

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY WASTE DIVISION
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Section A - Non-Technical Summary

Section A.1 - Non-Technical Summary

Sterile Technologies Ireland Ltd. (STI), 430 Beech Road, Western Industrial Estate, Dublin 12, hereby applies to the Environmental Protection Agency for a review of waste licence 55-1. STI propose to its site boundaries, to operate an additional healthcare waste treatment plant at 420 Beech Road, Western Industrial Estate, Naas Road, Dublin 12 (National Grid Reference: Easting 231398 Northing 309143) and also to provide for the use of the premise for the storage and transfer of healthcare waste. A Site Area Map indicating the subject site location is attached (Section B.2). The subject premises is comprised of a purpose built industrial unit within an established industrial estate, and there is a history of industrial/warehousing and ancillary administrative office use at this location.

The principal activity to be carried out on the site is specified in the Third Schedule of the Waste Management Act, 1996 (as amended) as follows:-

"7. Physico-chemical treatment not referred to elsewhere in this Schedule which results in final compounds or mixtures which are disposed of by means of any activity referred to in paragraphs 1 to 10 of this Schedule (including evaporation, drying calcinations)".

Other activities sought may be found in Section B.5 of this application.

STI intends to operate three waste treatment plants in total, one currently operational in Antrim (incorporating a stand-alone waste transfer station), one currently operational in Dublin and one proposed additional plant at the extended site in Dublin. Over the past three years STI has successfully operated a Transfer Station within the Northern Ireland jurisdiction.

STI is committed to reducing the proportion of waste being sent to landfill each year. To this end, STI proposes to site a recycling / recovery process in the newly-acquired premises.

On average, about 5% of healthcare risk waste requires incineration. To facilitate appropriate streaming of this waste segregation is undertaken at the generating source. The Department of Health has instructed that all public

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health facilities shall appoint a waste officer to monitor the segregation and packaging procedures at each location. This ensures that wastes which are not to be treated by steam sterilisation (those incorporating recognisable anatomical, cytotoxic and pharmaceutical waste) are clearly identified and, at present, sent to an independent transfer station for storage and transit to its eventual disposal facility. STI proposes to now provide this Transfer Station service.

The system utilised is a STI Model 2000 unit designed to disinfect and render unrecognisable all forms of healthcare waste not specifically requiring incineration (i.e. pathological and chemotherapeutic wastes). The system treats sealed containers and their contents. Mechanical reliability has been a key design criterion. After shredding, the waste is steam disinfected in the thermal treatment section of the system. Daily microbiological testing has proved the efficacy of the system in the current plant. Detailed test results are available upon request. The STI process does not involve combustion. The resultant waste product is reduced in volume by a ratio of 7:1. This unrecognisable residual treated waste can be sent to licensed landfill or as a potential future development for materials reclamation by separating paper, plastics, glass, metals, etc.

With regard to transportation of the waste arisings, STI currently operates a fleet of dedicated vehicles which are fitted out to the highest safety and security standards. Each vehicle has the capacity to carry sanitised wheeled bins to replace the collected full ones. Loading and unloading of vehicles is facilitated by means of tail-lifts. A record of location, collection time, driver and vehicle is made, in written and electronic form (through the company's electronic tracking system). On return to the treatment facility, all collections are registered at the point of entry into the facility. The vehicles are then unloaded into a goods inward area. This is a synopsis of the operating procedure at the existing plant and STI proposes to implement identical operating procedures at the proposed plant.