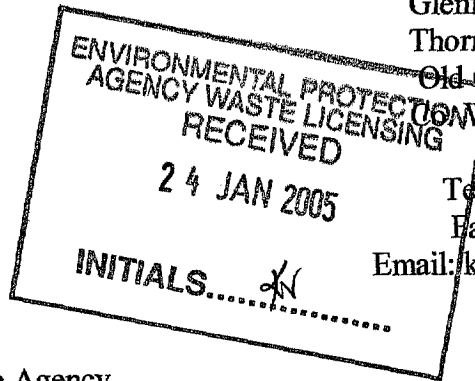


Sub (2)
53-3

Glenfield,
Thornhill Road,
Old Connaught, Bray,
Wicklow.



Tel: 01 282 1810
Fax: 01282 4833
Email: keanes@eircom.net

Waste Licence Department,
P.O.Box 3000,
The Environmental Protection Agency,
Johnstown Castle Estate,
Co. Wexford.

17.1.2005

Re: Review of Waste Licence 53/3 for Greenstar, Fassaroe, Co. Wicklow

Dear Sir,

We wish to make a submission with regard to certain of the licence conditions for which Greenstar is requesting review. The observations and complaints in our submission relate mainly to noise pollution.

We live some 500-600 yards north of the facility. Over the past six to seven years this noise has destroyed the ambience of our environment and devalued our property and that of our neighbours. This noise pollution has ruined what was once a peaceful semi-rural area, and it now promises to deteriorate even further with the proposed continuation of outdoor waste processing in greater volumes and over longer hours. Within our own home environment the noise intrudes not only on the garden area but also indoors.

In addition, with Greenstar's poor record on noise management to date, we have grave concerns regarding their new proposal for a biowaste system on their premises.

**BACKGROUND HISTORY OF EXCESSIVE NOISE PRODUCTION AT
FASSAROE**

This waste facility is sited in a semi-rural area along with the houses of ourselves and our neighbours. It is not a remote rural area. It is not an industrialised urban area. Our clearly documented complaints date back to 1998. **Before proceeding, please now read the attached blue-sheeted copies of correspondence to Wicklow County Council, to the EPA and to Greenstar (then trading as Celtic Waste).**

Since 1998 Noble Waste/Celtic Waste/ Greenstar have been processing construction and demolition waste out of doors ahead of securing planning permission for the buildings which should have housed this process from the start. ie -

2.

See condition 4.13 EPA Licence 53/1 granted 22/12/99...“Within six months of the grant of the licence, the licensee shall submit proposals to the Agency for its agreement for enclosing the Trommell, the Extec Screening Plant and the Shredder”.
And again, Condition 5.1.1 of EPA Licence 53/2 granted in 4/03...requires that the construction and demolition waste be processed indoors on completion of Phase 2 Building , or within 2 years of issuing the licence - whichever is the sooner.

Following complaints to Celtic Waste regarding continuing objectionable degrees of noise, we were assured by their Dr. Gabriel Dennison in person in Spring 2001, and again by phone in July 2001, that this building would be completed by 2003. Following further complaints to Greenstar, we met on April 4th 2004 with Mr. Paul Jacobs, Project Engineer for the Phase 2 Building . He assured us that the building would be completed by December 2004 .
None of this has happened.

In Greenstar's Annual Environmental Report 53/2 for 2003-04 under “ Environmental Incidents & Complaints” 6.2 page 8, it is stated that “ no complaints were received about facility operations during that period”. There is no apparent reference to the fact that we and our neighbours had a lengthy meeting regarding our complaints with a member of Greenstar in April 2004. Other than that, we had made no complaints since 2001, showing goodwill towards Greenstar being under the illusion that all was in hand and that the machinery would be housed by 2004 at the latest.

For inspection purposes only
Consent of copyright owner required for reuse

3.

We now refer to the specific conditions under review which relate to noise production.

CONDITION 1.4

Greenstar has applied for an almost 50% increase in all types of waste accepted. This will increase construction and demolition (C&D) waste from 35,000 tonnes to 54,000 tonnes per annum. It has also been stated that the quantity of C&D waste may be further increased for the purpose of restoration of the landfill.

This application for review is completely inappropriate as there is still not compliance with condition 5.1.1 of Licence 53/2 – ie the C&D waste processing machinery is not housed.

CONDITION 1.6

Greenstar has applied to have its hours of waste acceptance & facility operation extended.

Again, this increase in hours request during which C&D waste is accepted and processed is inappropriate and unacceptable as there is still no compliance with condition 5.1.1 of Licence 53/2 – ie the C&D waste processing machinery is not housed.

CONDITION 5.1.1

It is with this condition that we take greatest issue. Not alone have they not complied with Condition 5.1.1 of Licence 53/2, but Greenstar would now seem to be requesting indefinite continuation of outdoor processing of C&D waste.

Based on their environmental monitoring programme and their apparent lack of complaints from the public (Annual Environmental Report 2003-04 6.2 page 18), Greenstar feel there are “no overriding environmental reasons” why they should not continue their current practice of outdoor processing of C&D waste.

We adamantly dispute this, as their very selective noise monitoring programme does not give a true picture of the degree of noise pollution present.

There are four specified noise monitoring locations in the facility as shown on drawing 03072-01-Rev A in the 4/1680 planning application to Wicklow County Council. None of these are noise sensitive locations relevant to our house “Glenfield” (which is clearly marked on all standard ordinance survey maps) nor to our neighbours at “The Ochra” - ie no readings are taken at the southern boundary of the field which directly overlooks the facility from the north. In fact there isn't even a monitoring point anywhere near the west end of the facility where all the C&D waste is processed. In addition, we have already pointed out in our letters of 1998 and 2000 to Wicklow County Council and to the EPA, that the original EIS Forbairt Noise Survey took no cognisance of the fact that sound both rises and is carried by the prevailing wind – ie the environmental impact was never assessed properly in the first place.

Thus , Greenstar's environmental monitoring programme does **not** reveal the true negative environmental impact of this processing noise.

4.

CONDITION 5.1.1 (continued)

This point is further borne out when we compare differences between noise levels that we recorded, and those on Greenstar's Annual noise Survey of 27.11.2003.

In Licence 53/2, the maximum permitted sound emissions allowed for the Greenstar facility are 55dB during the day (8.00am-10.00pm) and 45 dB during the night (10.00pm-8.00am).

In recent weeks we have taken sound readings, both in our garden and at the highest point of the southern boundary hedge of the field directly overlooking the facility from the north.

On a windless Sunday afternoon (ie facility closed),

The average reading in our garden is 40 dB.

The average reading at the field boundary point is 45dB.

On a windless week-day afternoon (ie facility operational)

The average reading in our garden is 55 dB.

The average reading at the field boundary point is 65-70 dB.

These readings are all taken against the background hum of N 11 Motorway traffic. During operational hours there is a variety of different noises from the facility - traffic noises from vehicles entering and leaving the facility, forklifts working around the facility, reversing beepers, skips and pallets being loudly dropped etc etc. On two days per week a road-sweeper with a very high-pitched whine does a continuous 8 hour shift.

However, the worst and most easily identifiable noise by far is that coming from the C&D waste processing machinery.

It is very interesting that our readings - taken some 500 yds from the facility - are the same or greater than Greenstar's on-site readings.

5.

CONDITION 3.16.1.1 and CONDITION 5.4.1

Greenstar has applied to have a biowaste treatment plant by Celtic Composting Systems Ltd installed at Fassaroe - a tunnel composting system dealing with 10,000 tonnes per annum.

Overall we welcome such a system but with certain major reservations regarding noise.

- (a) Planning Application 4/1680 has been submitted by Greenstar to Wicklow Co Co for a system where the composting tunnels are outside, **separate** from the “tipping building” where incoming waste is accepted. These tunnels are loaded with a “slewing telescopic conveyor and emptied by a front end loader”. This involves external noise production along with reversing beepers etc. According to Mr. Craig Benton (Chairman Celtic Composting Systems) when we visited him last month at a similar plant run for Waterford City Council - these tunnels can be contained within the tipping building- greatly reducing the problems of outdoor noise & odours.

As this building is still at the planning stage, and as composting will obviously form a big part of this facility into the future, we feel it is absolutely essential that the composting tunnels should be contained **within** the tipping building from the very start.

- (b) We understand, again from Mr. Craig Benton, that it is now legally binding that the “tipping building” should be under negative pressure in order to reduce odours. This has not been made clear in Appendix 1 attached to the 4/1680 planning application to Wicklow County Council.

ADDITIONAL COMMENT

We ask that an assessment of the current orange floodlighting be done. It is unnecessarily strong, widespread and poorly focused. It seems to have been greatly augmented in 2004. We ask that it be altered in a way to be more environmentally friendly to those who live nearby.

6.

FINAL STATEMENT

At the end of the day we would genuinely like to work in harmony with Greenstar in the interest of a better environment for all . We believe this can be achieved. All we ask is that they give due consideration to their neighbours.

We have complained about the level of noise from the construction and demolition waste processing at Greenstar's facility for the past 6.7 years. It is a nonsense to assert that this noise has no significant adverse environmental impact on those living nearby.

We believe that no consideration should be given to any of the Licence Review 53/3 requests by Greenstar until there has been full compliance with all the conditions of the previous licence 53/2 . We expect that the Environmental Protection Agency will both acknowledge and support our concerns in this serious matter.

Dr. Noreen Keane

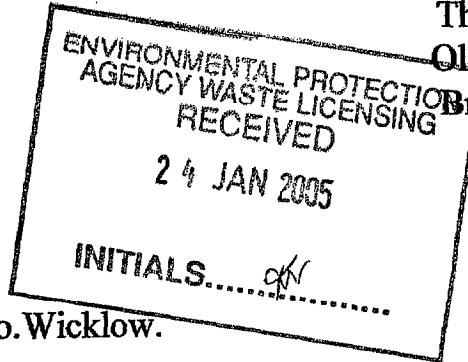


Prof. Frank Keane



Dr. Gabriel Dennison,
Celtic Waste,
Burton Court,
Burton Hall Road,
Dublin 18.

Glenfield,
Thornhill Road,
Old Connaught,
Bray, Co. Wicklow.



13.07.01

Re: Noble Waste
Fassaroe, Bray. Co. Wicklow.

Dear Dr. Dennison,

I write in the light of the recent Bord Pleannala Appeal rulings on the Cosgrave Industrial Park (PA.Reg.Ref. 99/336) and on the Noble Waste Facility (P.A. Reg. Ref. 98/8960).

As you are aware from my meeting with you in the Spring, I strongly object to the ongoing noise pollution affecting our home and property as a result of the continuing illegal uncovered activity at Noble Waste.

At that meeting you said that a building delay of up to two years could ensue owing to the demands of Wicklow Co. Co/ Cosgrave Developers to completely alter the access to the waste facility.

In view of the fact that the Cosgrave Development has been over-ruled, and that Noble Waste's appeal against certain of Wicklow Co. Co's conditions has been dealt with, I would like to know the new timescale for the construction of the "shredding & sorting screening building".

Whilst both Philip Lardner and I appreciated meeting with you earlier this year, I must assure you that we do not have endless tolerance with regard to this problem.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely,
Noreen Keane.

“Glenfield”
Old Connaught,
Bray, co. Wicklow.

22/2/00.

Waste Licencing Admin.,
The Environmental Protection Agency,
PO Box 3000,
Johnstown Castle Estate,
Co. Wexford.

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I enclose copies of letters sent to Wicklow C.C. re Noble Waste Ltd. This is a waste transfer and recycling facility with which you may already be familiar. It is located some 400-500 yards south of our property. The quality of our environment has been totally altered for the worse over the past two years because of the continuous noise of heavy plant machinery from this facility. The more noisy of these machines should have been housed but this was never done.

We would greatly appreciate if you could look into this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Noreen Keane
Frank Keane

For inspection purposes only.
Consent of copyright owner required for any other use.

“ Glenfield”
Thornhill Road,
Old Connaught,
Bray, Co. Wicklow.

Wicklow Co Co.,
County Buildings, Wicklow

22/2/00.

Re: Planning Ref 8960/98
Noble Waste Ltd
Fassaroe, Bray, Co. Wicklow

Dear Sir,

We wish to strongly object to ongoing noise pollution affecting our home & property as a result of the continuing illegal activities at Noble Waste Ltd., and would like several questions answered.

Enclosed is a copy of our original handwritten objection to planning permission for new buildings on the site, submitted 17 months ago on 28/8/98. Since that time, an enormous volume of builders' rubbish has accumulated on the site, whilst its delivery, sorting, grinding, shredding continues noisily unabated 6 days a week, the resultant debris being subsequently used as landfill. Even more machinery is now being used.

This activity commenced & continues in the absence of any planning permission. At this point we would like responses to the following questions please.

1. Why in the first place was Noble Waste Ltd allowed to commence using heavy machinery (Trommell 2000 & Extec shredder) before the necessary buildings to house them were constructed – or even planning granted?
2. Why has Wicklow C.C. continued to allow Noble waste Ltd to accumulate such enormous quantities of waste when there is obviously to date no legal way of disposing of it?
3. Is Wicklow C. C. going to allow Noble Waste Ltd to carry on its business indefinitely in this illegal manner?

We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Noreen Keane
Frank Keane

COPY OF ORIGINAL HANDWRITTEN LETTER

**Glenfield,
Old Connaught,
Bray, Co Wicklow.**

**Planning Office,
Wicklow Co Co,
County Buildings,
Wicklow.**

28/9/98

**Re; Planning Ref. 8960/98.
Noble Waste Ltd.,
Fassaroe, Bray, Co. Wicklow.**

Dear Sir,

We wish to object to the extended development of Noble Waste Ltd at Fassaroe Bray. When this plant was opened in 1995, we, the residents were absolutely assured that it was to be used purely as a waste transfer & recycling station and that there was never to be a landfill extension with its attendant increase in noise traffic, and dust.

NOISE:

Already there is very invasive and disturbing noise from the plant 6 days a week through the outside use of the Trommell 2000 & most especially the Extec S Shredder. The latter was not mentioned as a noise producer in the EIS Forbairt Noise survey: thus one assumes it was not working on the day of the survey. Neither did the survey take into account that the plant is in a low-lying valley or bowl and that sound obviously rises. All noise recordings (EIS Fig 1, page 9 of 9) took place at the low-lying boundaries of the site. No consideration was given to the position of our house " Glenfield", nor to our neighbours' house "The Ochra".

On the plans it is proposed that the Trommell and Extec Shredder, their loaders, the matter being fed to them, and the separated matter will all manage to be contained in a 44x32m building . This is hard to credit when one sees the area they currently occupy. It is unclear from the plans what the aspect of this building is. It is also unclear how high the internal walls are – no elevations supplied. If these walls are not to the ceiling, a very significant amount of noise will be heard through the two openings on Side A, from the Trommell & Extec Shredder. We would strongly object to these openings having the NE aspect from which sound would be transmitted via the prevailing wind towards our property.

PLASTIC RECYCLING:

It is unclear from the plans what exactly is to occur in the plastic recycling building. Is it purely a granulating process, or as indicated in a brochure included in the EIS, will moulding be done also?

TRAFFIC:

With the increased tonnage per annumas listed in the EIS, the resultant increase in traffic and its attendant dust & noise is unacceptable.

Yours sincerely,

**Noreen Keane
Frank Keane**

*For inspection purposes only.
Consent of copyright owner required for any other use.*