


Art 16 Acknowledgement will issue on 5/12/05.
PD can't issue until a month later

This Report/Memo has been
cleared for submission to the
Board by the Programme Manager,
P. Nolan

Signed:  Date: 21/12/05



OFFICE OF LICENSING & GUIDANCE

INSPECTORS REPORT ON A LICENCE APPLICATION

To:	DR. PADRAIC LARKIN
From:	DR KAREN CREED - LICENSING UNIT
Date:	2 TH DECEMBER, 2005
RE:	APPLICATION FOR A WASTE LICENCE FROM JOE MC LOUGHLIN WASTE DISPOSAL LTD., LICENCE REGISTER 216-1

Application Details

Type of facility:	Waste Transfer Station
Class(es) of Activity (P = principal activity):	3 rd Schedule: Class 11(P), 13 4 th Schedule: Class 2,3,4,11,13
Quantity of waste managed per annum: (applied for)	15,800t to 2008 24,990 thereafter subject to agreement
Classes of Waste:	Household waste, commercial waste and construction & demolition waste
Location of facility:	Ardcolum, Drumbshambo, Co. Leitrim
Licence application received:	24/01/05
Third Party submissions:	None
EIS Required:	No
Article 14 Compliance date:	29/06/05
Article 16 Compliance date:	21/10/05
Site Inspection:	10/03/05

1. Facility

Joe McLoughlin Waste Disposal Ltd. has operated a waste collection and recycling service at Ardcolum, Drumbshambo, Co Leitrim since 1993. The site is located approximately 5km north of Leitrim town and 3km south-west of Drumshambo in a rural, agricultural setting. Adjacent to the facility is a plant hire business and an auto

spares retail outlet also owned by the applicant and directly opposite the main entrance is Joe McLoughlins residence. (The McLoughlin residence at 85 meters from the facility is not the nearest dwelling to the activity. The nearest residential property to the site is approximately 75 meters from the facility boundary.) In addition, the applicant owns the land surrounding the facility on all sides with the exception of the eastern boundary.

The facility is currently permitted to accept 5000 tonnes of non-hazardous waste by Leitrim County Council under permit number S807/19/D. The applicant proposes to increase waste acceptance at the facility from current levels to 15,800 tonnes per annum by 2008 and to a maximum of <25,000 thereafter. The RD has set this limit at 24,990 tonnes per annum to avoid ambiguity.

The proposed hours of operation are 06.00 to 20.00. The early opening time has been proposed by the applicant to allow for waste collection vehicles, which are parked on site overnight, to leave the facility. However, waste will only be accepted/despached between the hours of 08.00 and 18.00 Monday to Saturday. It may be necessary to access the facility outside these hours to facilitate emergency situations or additional collection of recycling banks over holiday periods. The RD has allowed for this and arrangements can be made to facilitate such contingencies subject to Agency agreement (Condition 1.6).

2. Operational Description

Condition 1.1 and Schedule A of the RD specify the waste types to be accepted at the facility. No hazardous waste is to be accepted at the transfer station. All waste entering the facility will be directed via a weighbridge to the waste handling area located inside the waste transfer building. Condition 8.9.2 requires written procedures for the acceptance and handling of all waste. All waste processing will be carried out indoors.

Municipal solid waste (MSW) is currently the largest waste stream handled at the facility and generally arrives on site between 2.30pm and 4.30pm. It is subsequently transferred directly to a bulker and transferred to landfill. On alternative weeks dry recyclables are collected by kerbside collection and are tipped directly to a bulker for transfer or directed via conveyer belt for further segregation and baling. Commercial packaging, which is segregated at source, is baled and stored prior to transfer. Skips will not be dealt with in the waste handling area while MSW or kerbside collected recyclables are being loaded or unloaded. The waste transfer building will be free for use by skips outside of the times mentioned above. Skips will be emptied of their contents on arrival and the salvaged recyclables stored in the designated areas and any residual waste transferred to landfill. The RD (Condition 6.3.4) stipulates that all external containers storing waste for recovery shall be covered at all times. This is a preventative measure to reduce contamination of stormwater.

Any hazardous waste encountered will be stored in an appropriate manner in the waste quarantine area and handled as per Condition 8.

The applicant has stated that they may establish a civic amenity area depending on the economic favourability of same. Leitrim County Council have stated that they would not require an EIS for such a development. The RD has allowed for this but requires the applicant to submit detailed proposals and receive written approval from the Agency prior to establishment (Condition 3.12).

3. Use of Resources

Water use on site is mainly associated with the wash down of the transfer station floor and waste collection vehicles. Fuel is used for onsite plant, waste collection vehicles and heating. Condition 7 of the RD requires the applicant to carry out an energy audit and identify and implement the recommendations therein.

4. Emissions

4.1 Air

There are no point source emissions to atmosphere from this facility. The main emissions to atmosphere are fugitive dust and odour.

The applicant carried out a dust monitoring survey at four locations on the site boundary, none of which elicited a result in excess of those specified in the BAT Guidance Notes for the Waste Sector: Waste Treatment Activities (Draft, November, 2003) or the RD. However, the potential for increased dust deposition exists as Joe McLoughlin Waste Disposal Ltd intends to increase the waste volumes accepted on site. The RD has addressed this by way of Conditions 3.11, 4.5, 5.5, 6.2, 6.5 and Schedules B5 and C6. The mitigation measures proposed by the applicant include sprinkling or applying a fine water mist over dusty waste, regularly sweeping and washing down the transfer station floors, regularly washing down waste collection vehicles and using a road sweeper on the facility yard.

Likewise, an increase in waste acceptance could potentially increase the risk of odour nuisance on site. The applicant has proposed a number of mitigation measures including that all waste handling will occur indoors in the waste transfer building and that de-odourising chemicals will be used if needed. The RD reinforces these measures and stipulates further measures to ensure that the activity does not cause an odour nuisance (Conditions 5.3, 5.5, 6.2, 6.3, 6.5, 8.8).

4.2 Emissions to Sewer

There are no emissions to sewer. A proprietary waste water system has been proposed by the applicant for the treatment of canteen, office and sanitary effluent. The RD requires that this system complies with Agency guidelines.

4.3 Emissions to Surface Waters

There are no process emissions to surface water.

4.4 Storm Water Runoff

Stormwater runoff from the roofs of the buildings and the facility yard are currently directed to piped underground streams via interceptors and discharge to Ardcolumn Lough. The RD (Condition 3.18) recommends that, with the exception of stormwater from the roofs of the facility buildings, all stormwater must pass through a silt trap and a Class 1 full retention oil separator prior to discharge. Schedule C establish the requirements for storm water runoff monitoring.

Drainage from the Waste Transfer Building and the Quarantine area currently discharge via a three chamber settlement tank and interceptor to the percolation area. This is considered unacceptable and the RD (Condition 3.10.3), requires the applicant

to provide and maintain on-site storage tanks for storage of trade effluent (leachate from transfer station floor washings, quarantine area and washings from containers containing putrescible waste). This trade effluent is to be tankered off-site to an agreed wastewater treatment plant. Furthermore, the RD requires that the quarantine area is fully enclosed to reduce the amount of leachate requiring disposal (Condition 3.7.3).

Condition 3.20 requires the applicant to carry out a risk assessment to determine if the activity should have a fire-water retention facility and stipulates the requirements thereof; and Condition 3.16 specifies the requirements and testing schedule for tank and drum storage areas.

Emissions to ground/groundwater:

There are no direct emissions to ground or groundwater and the RD prohibits any such discharges (Condition 5.1). The applicant states that the site is not located over any regionally or locally classed aquifers and there are no private wells located within 500m of the site.

All waste processing takes place on concreted areas and the RD allows for the provision of further impermeable and hardstanding areas as proposed by the applicant. (Condition 3.5).

The washings from the Wash Bay discharge to the same percolation area as the sanitary effluent via a three chamber settlement tank and interceptor. Condition 3.10 requires that this percolation area is adequately sized to accommodate the hydraulic load and the applicant must submit an engineers report to that effect. Further measures to protect groundwater are incorporated into the RD including the prohibition of washing containers that contained putrescible waste at the Wash Bay area.

4.7 Noise:

As part of the application, the applicant monitored four site boundary and four noise sensitive locations (NSLs) for noise emissions. All of the site boundary locations and one of the NSLs resulted in exceedances of the limit values in the BAT Guidance Notes for the Waste Sector: Waste Treatment Activities (Draft, November, 2003). The NSL in question was the McLoughlin dwelling and the reason given for the elevated reading was the level of background noise from passing traffic. During the sampling period of thirty minutes a total of 35 cars, 4 vans, 1 tractor and 1 bus passed the residence and a helicopter could be heard in nearby fields. The McLoughlin dwelling is not the nearest NSL to the transfer station but it is the nearest dwelling to the R280. The RD specifies noise limits at NSLs in line with the aforementioned guidance and requires an annual noise survey.

4.8 Nuisance:

The applicant has proposed a number of measures to control potential nuisances. They include good housekeeping measures on site, handling waste inside the waste transfer building, covering waste skips and daily litter patrols. Measures to control possible nuisances at the facility are specified in the RD.

5. Cultural Heritage, Habitats & Protected Species

There are no recorded features of architectural, archaeological or historical importance within the site boundary. The site is not located on or adjacent to any ecologically designated area. There will be no significant environmental emissions from the facility, which could give rise to adverse effects in designated sites.

6. Waste Management, Air Quality and Water Quality Management Plans

The Connaught Waste Management Plan 1999-2004 identifies a number of strategies including kerbside collection, waste transfer and recovery and construction and demolition waste recycling. Joe Mc Loughlin Waste Disposal Ltd. services are in line with these objectives. At present there is no Water Quality Management Plan for County Leitrim.

7. Compliance with Directives/Regulations

The facility does not fall under the scope of the Landfill or IPPC directives. In relation to the Groundwater Directive the facility will not have any direct emissions to groundwater.

8. Fit & Proper Person Assessment

Condition 12.2 of the RD requires the applicant to provide an annual statement of measures taken or adopted at the site in relation to the prevention of environmental damage. In addition, the applicant must detail the financial provisions in place in relation to the underwriting of costs for remedial actions following anticipated events (including closure) or accidents/incidents, as may be associated with the carrying on of the activity.

Joe McLoughlin has been involved in the waste management industry for 17 years. His sons Keith and Trevor McLoughlin are to be facility manager and assistant manager. Condition 2.1.2 stipulates that the facility manager and his/her deputy shall successfully complete the FAS Waste Management Training Programme or equivalent agreed with the Agency.

On the 9th of February, 2005 Mr Joe McLoughlin was prosecuted by the Agency under Section 39 of the Waste Management Act, 1996. Mr. McLoughlin pleaded guilty to carrying on unauthorised waste activities. Under the Waste Management Act, where a facility is accepting more than 5000 tonnes of waste per annum, a waste

licence is required. The facility at Ardcolumn, Drumbshambo, Co. Leitrim exceeded this threshold in 2003 and thereby required a waste licence. Mr. McLoughlin pleaded guilty to carrying on unauthorised waste activities and was imposed fines totalling €250 and the Agency costs of €10,283 were awarded.

With regard to the matter of thresholds mentioned above, the RD has imposed strict controls and reporting mechanisms on the quantity of waste to be accepted at the site. The applicant must install a CCTV system to record all truck movements into and out of the facility. Copies of these recordings are to be kept on site and made available to the Agency on request (Condition 3.4). Condition 8.9.3 requires the applicant to inspect, weigh and document all waste arriving on site and Condition 11.8 stipulates that the records be maintained on a monthly basis and contain specific minimum information. The RD has also authorised an increase in the amount of waste to be accepted on site (Schedule A), in line with that requested by the applicant, to allow for the increased demand on the service. However, prior to the introduction of any increases the applicant is required to establish all the infrastructure referred to in the RD. In addition, the site will be subject to audits and site inspections to ensure compliance with the RD which conditions facility operations to ensure environmental protection. Therefore, it is considered that the RD contains sufficient controls to regulate the operation of the facility at Ardcolumn ensuring compliance and to allow the Agency to avail of the provision set out in Section 40(8) of the Waste Management Acts to deem the applicant, in the case of this application, to be Fit and Proper for the purposes of Section 40(7)(a).

9. Submissions

No submissions were received in relation to this application.

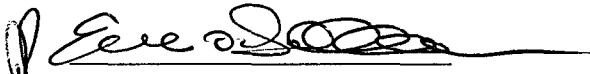
10. Charges

The RD requires the applicant to pay an annual contribution of €9614.00.

11. Recommendation

I have considered all the documentation submitted in relation to this application and recommend that the Agency grant a licence subject to the conditions set out in the attached RD and for the reasons as drafted.

Signed



Dr. Karen Creed

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.