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RESOURCE USE

This report has been cleared by the Programme Manager for submission to the Board/OCLR Director

Signed: [Signature] Dated: 21/04/08

LICENSING UNIT MEMORANDUM

TO:	Ms Laura Burke, Director
CC:	Mr Paddy Nolan, Programme Manager
FROM:	Ms Ewa Babiarczyk, Inspector
DATE:	21 st April 2008
RE:	Technical Amendment to Licence Register Number W0030-02, held by Kilkenny County Council, Dunmore Landfill, Dunmore, Co. Kilkenny.

1. Introduction

Kilkenny County Council was granted the first waste licence for Dunmore Landfill (Reg. No. W0030-01) on the 23rd November 1999. A revised licence (Reg. No. W0030-02) was granted on the 10th May 2002. The licensed activities are: disposal activities – *Classes 1, 4, 5, 13* of the Third Schedule, and recovery activities – *Classes 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 13* of the Fourth Schedule of the Waste Management Act 1996. The licence was amended on 20th October 2005.

Kilkenny County Council submitted a request to the Agency dated 11th January 2008 for a technical amendment to the licence. Further information relating to this request was received by the Agency on the 8th April 2008.

2. Technical Amendment

The Technical Amendment application requests an amendment of the licence relating to *the Condition 1.5.3: Only commercial and industrial wastes, not including foodstuffs, may be deposited in Cell 14, specifically:*

The relaxation of the restriction for only commercial and industrial waste, not including foodstuffs, to be deposited in Cell 14 to allow deposit of municipal waste containing foodstuffs.

At present the disposal operations at the Dunmore landfill are taking place in the two remaining cells. The municipal waste containing foodstuffs is deposited in Cell 13, and the commercial and industrial waste not including foodstuffs is deposited in Cell 14.

According to the last information received, the remaining capacity in Cell 13 would allow disposal of waste for a few weeks. After Cell 13 is full the municipal waste containing foodstuffs will have to be transported out of the county as this is the only landfill facility in Co. Kilkenny. At the current filling rates the quantity of the waste being disposed in Cell 14 is substantially smaller than the amount of waste disposed in Cell 13. Therefore Cell 14 will continue to operate for several years after the lifespan of Cell 13 is finished.

Furthermore, the request states that the waste segregation into two cells is operationally difficult as even a small amount of organic waste contamination in a load can lead to the non-compliance with the Condition 1.5.3. Also, according to the applicant, the construction of Cells 13 and 14 is such that they are basically one cell with an intermediate permeable bund. The leachate and gas collection systems in both cells are interconnected. Therefore the leachate mixes within both cells and at the leachate lagoon. The gas mixes between both cells prior to and during the collection. Additionally, the waste from both cells connects at the two waste faces along their boundary.

3. OEE Consultation

The OEE was consulted in relation to the request for a technical amendment and raised some concerns regarding the request. Following recent audits and inspections, the OEE has noted that the operational practices at the landfill are poor. Generally, the landfill cover is inadequate and waste is exposed at the facility. Also in recent years, the OEE has received odour complaints from residents living in close proximity to the landfill. The last complaint was received in January 2008. The OEE is awaiting a report from the 'Odour Monitoring Ireland' (OMI) on the gas management system at the facility. However, the OMI's initial thought was that the existing system is not sufficient as the flare is undersized for the gas production at the landfill.

4. Assessment

The original licence restriction to the waste type disposed in Cell 14 was reasoned by the close proximity between the cell and the private dwellings as they are located just across the road.

In my view, having regard to the OEE observations, if the waste containing foodstuffs were allowed to be disposed in Cell 14 at the current operational practices, it would significantly increase the risk of odour emissions from the facility. Odour is already a serious problem for people living near the landfill.

5. Recommendation

In light of the OEE observations, I recommend that the request for the technical amendment be refused. It was the intention of the Board when granting the licence to specifically prohibit Foodstuff waste from Cell 14 and it would be inappropriate for a change to be made by way of technical amendment to remove the prohibition.

Signed:

pp. Ewa Babiarczyk

Ewa Babiarczyk

Inspector

Environmental Licensing Programme

Office of Climate, Licensing & Resource Use