



This report has been cleared for submission to the Board by the Programme Manager. Paddy Nolan  
Signed: C. O'Keefe Date: 12/11/07

**TO:** Each Director **FROM:** Ian Marnane  
**CC:** Office File **DATE:** 12 November 2007

**SUBJECT : Request/s for oral hearing of objection/s on pd re: Fingal County Council, Fingal Landfill, Nevitt, Register No. W0231-01**

I have examined the valid objections received in relation to the above referenced waste licence PD and the associated requests for an oral hearing accompanying several of the objections.

The issues raised in a significant number of the objections were outlined in the various submissions received and considered by the Agency prior to the PD being issued.

Nevertheless, I consider that an oral hearing of the objections is required in this case, as they come within the scope of the following criteria set down in the guidelines by the Board, including:

- Whether it is a matter of national or regional importance.
- The sensitivity of the local environment.
- The scale or complexity of the development (in this case I consider the scale to be the more pertinent issue).

In particular it is considered that the development of the landfill is a matter of regional importance as the landfill will accept waste from all four of the Dublin Local Authorities, and is a key part of the Waste Management Plan for the Dublin Region. A number of objections have also raised the point that the horticultural industry in the north county Dublin area is also a matter of regional/national importance. As part of the Inspector's Report I considered the impact of the landfill on local wells abstracting water for horticultural purposes and I am satisfied that there would be no likely significant impact at these wells due to the operation of the landfill. Nevertheless, the potential for impact on this industry is a matter of significant national/regional importance and further supports the requirement for an oral hearing.

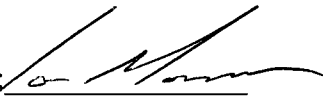
In relation to the 'sensitivity of the local environment' I have described in the Inspector's Report that the development of the landfill would potentially prevent the development of additional public water supply abstraction wells in the vicinity of the landfill. While recognising that Fingal County Council do not propose to develop additional groundwater based supplies in this area, the potential for development of additional water supplies is an issue of regional importance. The issue of the potential for development of additional water supplies at the proposed site of the landfill and

the surrounding area has again been raised in a number of the requests for oral hearing.

The existing water supply at the Bog of the Ring is also an issue of regional importance. While the impact of the operation of the landfill on the Bog of the Ring supply was considered as part of the Inspector's Report and I am satisfied that the operation of the landfill will not result in any likely significant impact, I note that the objections continue to raise concerns in relation to the potential impact on this supply.

The overall scale of the operation also contributes to the requirements for an oral hearing, with the facility proposing to accept up to 500,000 tonnes per annum.

Overall, I therefore recommend that an oral hearing be held in relation to the proposed Waste Licence for the Fingal landfill at Nevitt.

Signed: 

Ian Marnane

Dated: 12/11/07