

Section I – Existing & Environment & Impact of the Facility

As the applicant operates under an existing Waste Permit (WMP 023/2007) and intends to stay within the existing permitted footprint of the facility it is considered that the impact of the facility will not change. Accordingly it is considered that the applicant does not require an Environmental Impact Study (EIS). The activity on site is currently governed by the conditions of the existing planning permission issued by Kilkenny County Council. See appendix 1. Reference Environment section 3.0 of the Air Impact Assessment Report appendix 3.

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Attachment I.1. Assessment of Impact on Receiving Surface Water

There will be no direct emissions to surface waters from the restoration and recovery activities on site. Only inert construction and demolition waste will be landfilled. No emissions of polluting substances to the water environment will be permitted. Therefore it is not considered that the activities on site will give rise to any significant impact on the surface water environment.

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Attachment I.2 Assessment of impact of waste water discharges

As the site does not discharge to any adjacent sewer systems this Section is Not Applicable.

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Attachment I.3. Assessment of ground and/or Groundwater condition.

A full hydrogeological assessment of the site in relation to the restoration activities on site has not been prepared at this stage. This was not required by Kilkenny County Council as part of the application for Planning Permission on the site or as part of the application for a Waste Permit for the site. However a desk hydro geological study was carried out. Refer to appendix 1. It is understood that Kilkenny County Council is itself required to carry out a risk assessment of that portion of the site, which is adjacent to the recovery activities, and which was once used as a municipal waste landfill. We are seeking a copy of any such risk assessment carried out on our lands by Kilkenny County Council.

The Aquifer Classification is L1. This applied to bedrock which is moderately productive only in local zones. The Vulnerability is deemed to be Extreme (E). There are no Source Protection Zones and no source protection areas affected by the site at Grannagh. This implies an overall Groundwater Resource Protection Zone Classification of L1/E.

Within this Groundwater Resource Protection Zone Classification a landfill for municipal solid waste (MSW) is deemed to have a Groundwater Protection Response of R2². This means that such a facility would be acceptable, in principle, subject to certain conditions. By contrast a Groundwater Protection Response of R3¹ (i.e. the next category) would indicate that a landfill would not generally be acceptable, unless it could be shown that:

- The groundwater in the aquifer is confined; or
- There will be no significant impact on the groundwater; and
- It is not practicable to find a site in a lower risk area

All MSW landfills give rise to leachate which can cause significant contamination of groundwater. This application relates to a non-hazardous recovery operation where only inert soils, stones and comparable material will be used to reinstate the worked-out quarry void. The Groundwater Protect Schemes applies a Risk Assessment Model based on 'Source' – 'Pathway' – 'Receptor' construct. Given the nature of the source in this case (i.e. mainly inert soils and stones), the overall risk of groundwater contamination is considered to be extremely low and it is not considered that a full hydrogeological assessment of the site is warranted.

Attachment I.4. Noise Impact

A Noise and Vibration impact assessment report was carried out on the applicant site. Refer to attached document appendix 2.

During the operational Phase noise emissions from the Facility will be comparable to noise emissions from quarry operations. Noise at the application site is principally generated by traffic movements and mobile construction plant. There are no fixed (point) noise sources at the site. Some short term ambient noise will be generated by HGV movements, earthmoving plant and crushing and screening equipment during the proposed site restoration works. During the course of our operation of the facility at Granny no noise complaints have been received either by the applicant or by Kilkenny County Council. Given the fact that we do not propose any changes to the activities on site which would be likely to give rise to an increase in ambient noise levels, it is not expected that the activities on site will give rise to any noise nuisance at sensitive receptors such as residences.

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Attachment I.5. Assessment of Ecological Impacts & Mitigation Measures

Given the previous history of the site as a quarry it is not considered that the recovery activities, which are the subject of this Waste Licence application, will have any adverse impact on flora and fauna within the site. There are no Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) or candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSACs) within the site boundaries or close enough to the site to be impacted by the activities on site. As the risk of significant impact on the ecology of the site is considered to be extremely small, it is not considered that a full ecological impact assessment of the site is warranted.

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