



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

Signed: [Signature] Date: 11/6/09

LICENSING PROGRAMME MEMORANDUM

TO: MS. LAURA BURKE, DIRECTOR

CC: Mr. Frank Clinton

FROM: Alison McCarthy

DATE: 11th June 2009

Greenstar Recycling (Munster) Limited, Glanmire, Co. Cork, request for a technical amendment of licence Reg. No. W0136-02.

Licensee request

Following discussions with the Office of Environmental Enforcement, the above licensee wrote to the OCLR on 25th February 2009 requesting a technical amendment of its licence. The licensee, Greenstar Recycling (Munster) Limited operates a waste transfer station and recycling facility at Sarsfieldcourt Industrial Estate, Sarsfieldcourt, Glanmire, Co. Cork under EPA licence Reg. No. W0136-02. They are licensed to accept non-hazardous waste (primarily household, commercial and industrial waste) up to a maximum of 99,017 tonnes per annum. Composting of up to 5,000 tonnes per annum of source separated biodegradable waste is also authorised.

The licensee has requested a technical amendment of licence W0136-02, on condition 1.10 Waste Acceptance Hours and Hours of Operation, to allow them to operate on a 24 hour/7 day per week basis if necessary. Under the current licence, the hours of waste acceptance are 08:00–18:00 Mon–Fri, and 08:00–14:00 on Sat. The hours of operation are 07:00–20:00 Mon–Fri, and 07:00–15:00 Sat. They are not permitted to operate on Sundays or on Bank Holidays.

The licensee states that processing takes place inside a waste transfer building, and that mitigation measures are in place, thus there is no significant environmental reason for limiting hours of waste acceptance and operation. They also state that the current hours place them at a commercial disadvantage to their competitors.

Assessment

Under Section 98 of the EPA Act, when a licensee requests an alteration to a licence which would, in the opinion of the Agency, cause significant change to the activity, they must direct the licensee to apply for a licence review.

The public are likely to have an interest in an extension of opening hours at this facility. When the original licence was applied for, in March 2000, there were 78 submissions received regarding a wide range of issues. These were noise, odour, dust and vermin nuisances, leachate storage, containment and treatment, surface water, traffic, groundwater pollution, illegal dumping/litter, proposed location and planning issues,

waste management/acceptance, fire and emergencies, health, visual, lifespan and communication. These were all dealt with in the Inspector's Report and it was considered that the licence conditions addressed these issues.


Following consultation with OEE, there are concerns about extending opening hours at the facility in the absence of public consultation. The facility has been subject to odour complaints in the past from others working in the industrial estate and from residents nearby. In recent years there were a large number of complaints, and in 2005/2006 there was a prosecution taken by OEE against the site for odour nuisance.

An odour abatement system was put in place after the last licence was issued, in May 2004, but its modelled impact has not been assessed. Upon request from OEE the licensee has recently submitted a full odour monitoring and modelling exercise, which is currently under review. An OEE audit in December 2008 resulted in 7 non-compliances and several observations, relating to various conditions of the licence, including waste storage outside the waste transfer building.

Recommendation

I recommend that the requested licence amendment be refused, and if the licensee wishes to proceed they should apply for a licence review. The EPA OEE inspector for the site, Siobhán McDonnell, was consulted in relation to this application and her views are reflected in this recommendation.

Signed



Dr. Alison McCarthy

Inspector

Office of Climate, Licensing & Resource Use