

**This Report has been cleared  
for submission to the Board by  
the Programme Manager F Clinton**  
Signed: N Keavay Date: 15/4/09



**OFFICE OF CLIMATE,  
LICENSING &  
RESOURCE USE**

**INSPECTORS REPORT ON A LICENCE REVIEW APPLICATION**

TO:	DIRECTORS	
FROM:	Breen Higgins	Environmental Licensing Programme
DATE:	17/06/2009	
RE:	Application for a Waste Licence from Advanced Environmental Solutions (Ireland) Limited, Cappincur, Tullamore, County Offaly, Licence Register W0104-02	

**Application Details**

Type of facility:	Non-Hazardous Materials Recovery Facility
Class(es) of Activity (P = principal activity):	3 <sup>rd</sup> Schedule: Classes 11, 12, & 13. 4 <sup>th</sup> Schedule: Classes 2 (P), 3, 4, 12 & 13.
Quantity of waste managed per annum:	50,000 tonnes
Classes of Waste:	Dry recyclable non-hazardous household, hazardous household waste, commercial, industrial & construction and demolition wastes.
Location of facility:	Cappincur, Tullamore, County Offaly
Licence application received:	09 <sup>th</sup> September 2008
Third Party submissions:	None
EIS Required:	Yes: - submitted with application documentation.
Article 14 Notices sent:	01/05/2009
Article 14 compliance date:	16/06/2009
Site Inspection:	31/10/2008

**1. Facility**

The licence review application relates to the proposed intensification of waste acceptance activities at the existing Advanced Environmental Solutions (AES) Waste Transfer Station at Cappincur, Tullamore, Co. Offaly. The facility is located within

the Cappincur Industrial Estate along the local Daingean Road approximately 2km east of Tullamore.

The immediate land uses surrounding the site are a mixture of industrial and agricultural. On the eastern boundary of the site a number of industrial units are present while a County Council dog pound adjoins the southern boundary of the site. The nearest residential dwellings are approximately 200m to the north east of the site.

Classes 11, 12 and 13 of the Third Schedule and Classes 2, 3, 4, 12 and 13 of the Fourth Schedule were applied for in the review application. Class 2 of the Fourth Schedule is the Principal Activity, i.e., recycling or reclamation of organic substances which are not used as solvents (including composting and other biological processes). The Classes applied for are in line with those already licensed under the existing licence, Reg. No. W0104-01.

The facility currently accepts waste quantities in the region of 24,000 tonnes per annum (tpa); the review application seeks to increase intake levels to 50,000tpa. To accommodate the increase in throughput it will be necessary to reconfigure on-site processes to facilitate more efficient handling of materials. This increased intake will not, however, involve any extension to the existing waste transfer station building.

Waste operations at the facility are currently permitted Monday to Saturday inclusive between the hours of 07:00 and 20:00. This application seeks to extend these hours to permit waste handling between the hours of 07:00 and 23:00 Monday to Saturday with waste being accepted on-site between the hours of 06:00 and 00:00 Monday to Saturday.

## **2. Reasons for Review**

The applicant cites a number of reasons for their licence review request, namely: -

- The intensification of waste acceptance activities from 24,000tpa to 50,000tpa of non-hazardous municipal waste, construction and demolition waste and small quantities of household hazardous waste,
- The relocation and expansion of the existing administration building,
- The relocation and upgrading of the existing waste water treatment plant,
- The construction of an effluent holding tank,
- The revision of the site boundary resulting from a Compulsory Purchase Order, and
- To seek an increase in facility opening hours.

## **3. Operational Description**

The Recommended Decision (RD) permits the acceptance of 50,000tpa of waste from the date of grant of the licence, consisting of non-hazardous municipal waste, construction and demolition waste and small quantities of household hazardous waste. Commercial and industrial waste streams will account for the majority of material entering the site at 26,000tpa. The RD also allows for the acceptance of municipal solid waste (14,000tpa), household hazardous waste (200tpa) and construction and demolition waste (9,800tpa).

Waste delivered to site is unloaded in one of two locations depending on its nature. Dry recyclable material is unloaded in the southwestern area of the building where it is visually inspected and all material deemed not acceptable for recovery is removed to quarantine. The remaining recyclable material is then loaded onto the picking line where it is further segregated. This material is ultimately sent off site for further recycling or disposal, as appropriate. Construction and Demolition waste is processed in the northeastern section of the process building. Again this material is visually inspected for foreign material and subsequently segregated into its recyclable and non-recyclable fractions. The materials separated on-site are progressed for further processing if recyclable, or for disposal to a licensed facility if not. Mixed residual waste is accepted on-site and the recyclable fraction is recovered in line with the standard operating procedures in place at the facility, the non-recyclable fraction is reloaded and removed off site to landfill at Kyletelesha (Reg. No. W026-02)

The intensification of the waste intake will not result in large-scale changes to the current operational practices on-site. However, there will be a need to reconfigure some of the process to make them less labour intensive and more efficient. It is not envisaged that this will result in any significant alterations to the processing building itself. As a result of the Compulsory Purchase of a portion of the site (to facilitate the construction of the Tullamore town by-pass) the site boundary will be amended to reflect this new layout. This amendment will impact upon the percolation area associated with the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) utilised for the treatment of sanitary waste water generated on-site. It is proposed that the WWTP itself will be upgraded and the treated effluent will now be collected in a large holding tank to be constructed along the eastern edge of the site. Waste water generated as a result of wash down from the process building will also be collected in this holding tank. The licensee is required to update the Agency on the progress of this construction work under Condition 3.3 and *Schedule D: Specified Engineering Works* of the RD. The combined liquid will be removed off-site for treatment at Osberstown WWTP, Naas, Co. Kildare, with the agreement of Kildare County Council.

Waste operations at the facility are currently permitted Monday to Saturday inclusive between the hours of 07:00 to 20:00. This application seeks to extend these hours to permit waste handling between the hours of 07:00 to 23:00 Monday to Saturday with waste being accepted on-site between the hours of 06:00 to 00:00 Monday to Saturday. As there has been no history of noise, dust or nuisance complaints from the site and in the absence of submissions from members of the public it is considered appropriate to grant the extended operating hours. The extended opening hours have been accommodated under Condition 1.5 of the RD.

#### **4. Use of Resources**

The resources used on-site for 2007 were as follows: - diesel fuel (62,400 litres), hydraulic oil (6,000 litres), electricity (238,380 kWh) and water (3, 000m<sup>3</sup> - estimate). Water is supplied to the facility from the Ballinagar private group water scheme. It is anticipated that consumption of these resources will increase by approximately 15% with the increase in tonnage intake.

## 5. Emissions

### 5.1 Air

There are no point source emissions to atmosphere from the facility. In order to eliminate any potential risk of odour being generated from materials on-site Condition 6.13.1 of the RD requires removal of putrescible waste for disposal within forty-eight hours of its arrival to avoid odour nuisances.

### 5.2 Emissions to Sewer

There are no discharges to sewer from this facility.

### 5.3 Emissions to Surface Waters

There are no direct discharges to surface waters from the process.

### 5.4 Storm Water Runoff

Surface water run-off is currently generated from rainfall collected on the hardstanding areas and buildings on-site. This run-off is collected in a network of drains and conveyed to a silt trap and interceptor, prior to being discharged to a drainage ditch located to the south of the facility. This stream discharges to the Tullamore River, a tributary to the River Brosna. The original licence imposed onerous monitoring requirements on the discharge of run-off from the site. These included a number of Emission Limit Values (ELVs) in line with the requirements of the European Communities (Quality of Salmonid Waters) Regulations, S.I. No. 293 of 1988. Monitoring returns submitted as part of the application documentation indicate that the facility is compliant with the ELVs specified for BOD, pH, Conductivity, Chloride and Mineral Oils. However, exceedances have been noted for Ammonia (as N), where a maximum value of 0.63mg/l was noted (ELV 0.02mg/l), and for suspended solids, where a maximum value of 28mg/l was noted (ELV 25mg/l). The receiving watercourse is not a designated Salmonid water for the purpose of the European Communities (Quality of Salmonid Waters) Regulations, S.I. No. 293 of 1988.

The applicant requests that the limits be relaxed for these parameters to those listed in the European Communities (Quality of Surface Water intended for the abstraction of drinking water) Regulations, 1989. The relevant standards under this legislation are 50mg/l for Suspended Solids and 1mg/l for Ammonia (as N).

Given the nature of the receiving water, i.e., a drainage ditch with very low flows and with limited ecological value, the RD contains a relaxed limit (from 0.02mg/l to 1.0 mg/l) for Ammonia (as N) in line with that requested by the licensee. However, it has been demonstrated that the 25mg/l ELV for Suspended Solids is achievable in the majority of instances and therefore it is considered that with appropriate surface water management practices on-site this standard could be achieved consistently.

The original licence also requires upstream (SW01) and downstream (SW03) monitoring of the drainage ditch. The value of this monitoring is questionable due to the nature of the ditch in question. It is also likely that the downstream location will

be lost to the by-pass construction. For these reasons this requirement has been discontinued under the RD.

#### 5.5 Emissions to ground/groundwater:

The facility is located over a regionally important aquifer with a moderate to high vulnerability status. The underlying rock consists of carboniferous limestone overlain by peaty soils.

As previously stated there is currently a discharge of treated sanitary waste water from the on-site waste water treatment plant via a percolation area. As part of the redevelopment works planned this discharge is due to be discontinued and all treated waste water will in future be diverted to an on-site holding tank prior to disposal at Osberstown WWTP. The original licence requires groundwater monitoring to be undertaken at three locations for a range of parameters. The monitoring requirements were specified in the context of a historical hydrocarbon (diesel) spill on the site. The results of this monitoring suggests that the impact of the hydrocarbon spill has not impacted on the groundwater, however the results do show slightly elevated levels of Ammonia in the groundwater, i.e., 0.7mg/l. It is possible that the elevated levels of Ammonia are attributable to the predominantly peaty soils in the vicinity of the facility. However, in line with the precautionary principle it is considered Best Available Techniques (BAT) to maintain the monitoring regime implemented under Reg. No. W0104-01 at monitoring locations GW1, GW2 & GW3.

#### 5.6 Wastes Generated:

A small quantity of waste will be generated on-site from the maintenance of plant and machinery as well as through the use of canteens, offices, etc. Procedures are in place on-site to segregate this waste to recover the recyclable materials from this waste stream. The remaining materials are progressed to a licensed landfill facility for disposal.

#### 5.7 Noise:

*Schedule B.3 Noise Emissions* specifies the standard noise levels acceptable as a result of on-site activities. The noise emission limit values to be measured at any noise sensitive location are set in *Schedule C.5*. The licensee has requested that the number of noise monitoring locations be reduced from four monitoring location to three locations. However, in light of the increased operating hours being proposed under the RD and considering that operations now occur within night-time hours it is considered best practice to retain all four noise monitoring locations as per W0104-01.

#### 5.8 Nuisance:

Dust monitoring is required under *Schedule B.4 Dust Deposition Limits* of the RD. Dust emission limit values are set out in *Schedule C.6 Ambient Monitoring*. Conditions 3.16 and 6.13 of the RD ensure the dust control measures are implemented and maintained at the facility.

As with the noise monitoring locations the applicant requests a reduction in monitoring locations from four to three. The application documentation has indicated that there has been exceedances of the 350mg/m<sup>2</sup>/day limit stipulated in Reg. No. W0104-01 with a maximum value of 689mg/m<sup>2</sup>/day recorded. These exceedances are attributed to activities on-site and also to traffic movements along the Daingean

road, which may or may not be related to the waste activities. Increased waste tonnage and the associated increase in traffic movements provide an opportunity for generation of dust on-site. It is, therefore, considered best practice to retain all four dust-monitoring locations as per W0104-01.

The licensee proposes to install a dust extraction system above the picking lines for health and safety reasons, this air stream will pass through a filtration system, i.e., bag filters, to remove dust particles. The applicant proposes to install an air emission monitoring point post filtration for the measurement of particulates at this location. This point is annotated A2-1 as per Drawing No. 2.4 of Volume 2 of the EIS, accompanying the application. As this emission is considered to be of minor significance it is not proposed to impose an ELV on this emission point. However, the RD requires bi-annual monitoring of the emission for surveillance purposes, as per *Schedule C.1.2. Monitoring of Emissions to Air*.

## **6. Restoration**

The site has been licensed since 2004 (Reg. No. 104-01) and has expanded its operations continuously since then. The decommissioning and restoration of the site is not expected to occur in the near future. Nonetheless, standard conditions regarding decommissioning of the facility have been included in Condition 10 of the RD.

## **7. Cultural Heritage, Habitats & Protected Species**

There are no protected habitats, areas or species affected by the proposed expansion in activities at this site.

## **8. Waste Management, Air Quality and Water Quality Management Plans**

The intensification of activities at the AES facility is in line with the policy objectives specified in the Midlands Waste Management Plan 2005-2010, endorsed by Offaly County Council. Section 7 of the plan outlines the approach towards waste management over the five-year period of the plan. The focus is to reduce the regions dependence on landfill and move towards an integrated approach. It is proposed to achieve this aim by the recovery of secondary materials (recycling) and the biological treatment of organic materials in association with other waste management techniques.

## **9. Environmental Impact Statement**

I have examined and assessed the EIS and having regard to the statutory responsibilities of the EPA, I am satisfied that it complies with Article 94 and Schedule 6 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (S.I. No. 600 of 2001) and EPA Licensing Regulations (S.I. No. 85 of 1994, as amended).

## **10. Best Available Techniques (BAT)**

I have examined and assessed the application documentation and I am satisfied that the site, technologies and techniques specified in the application and as confirmed, modified or specified in the attached Recommended Decision comply with the requirements and principles of BAT. I consider the technologies and techniques as described in the application, in this report, and in the RD, to be the most effective

in achieving a high general level of protection of the environment having regard - as may be relevant - to the way the facility is located, designed, built, managed, maintained, operated and decommissioned.

### **11. Compliance with Directives/Regulations**

The proposed operation is compliant with all relevant EU waste and environmental statutory provisions.

### **12. Compliance Record & Site Visit**

I am advised by the Office of Environmental Enforcement (OEE) of the Agency that compliance with the licence has generally been good. The views and suggestions of the OEE inspector for the site have been taken into account as part of this preparation of this Recommended Determination.

The storage of dry recyclables being held external to the waste transfer building was observed during the site visit undertaken on the 31/10/2008. It was necessary to stockpile the material for a limited period as a result of the market for the final product becoming unstable due to the economic downturn. This issue was raised in subsequent discussions with the licensee and the OEE inspector. As a result of these discussions it was considered most appropriate to allow the Office of Environmental Enforcement to decide on the issue of storing these materials externally on a case-by-case basis as per Condition 8.6 of the RD.

### **13. Fit & Proper Person Assessment**

The legal, technical and financial standing of the applicant qualifies them to be considered Fit and Proper Persons.

### **14. Charges**

The current enforcement charge for the site is €11,648; the revised charge for the RD is €9,746 and is reflective of the enforcement effort required under the Conditions of the RD.

### **15. Recommendation**

In preparing this report and the Recommended Decision I have consulted with Agency technical and sectoral advisors Mr. Brian Meaney and Dr. Karen Creed.

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



Breen Higgins

Inspector

Office of Climate, Licensing and Resource Use

**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 1996-2007.