



Water Services Section
Tel: 045-980360
Fax: 045-980359

Date 22nd September 2009

Ms. Caroline Murphy,
Inspector,
c/o Administration,
Office of Climate, Licensing & Resource Use,
Environmental Protection Agency,
Headquarters,
PO Box 3000,
Johnstown Castle Estate,
County Wexford.

**RE:- Wastewater Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations, 2007
Monasterevin Town – Reply to Regulation 18(3)(b) Notice
Application Register No. D0177-01**

Dear Ms. Murphy,

Further to your letter dated 04/08/09 the Council submits the following replies to the requirements as stated.

- 1. In the Attachment to Section B.6 a copy of the "Public Consultation Process Outline Description of Scheme", has been attached. Provide a copy of the most recent planning permission as required by this section.**

Please refer to the attached Planners report dated 18th October 2000, which was prepared in accordance with Article 134 of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations, 1994. An extract from the minutes of the Kildare County Council meeting held on 23rd October 2000 adopting the report as proposed are also attached for your information.

- 2. Confirm whether this is a combined or separate sewer collection network.**

The Monasterevin agglomeration is a combined sewerage system.

- 3. Confirm what percentage of p.e. (current and future) is contributed by the industrial sector.**

Attachment F.1 ('Monasterevin Sewerage Scheme, Preliminary Report, Nicholas O' Dwyer Consulting Engineers', dated June 1998) of the original discharge licence application formed the basis for the design of Monasterevin WWTP. Section 7 of this report entitled 'Population projections, wastewater flows and staging of the scheme' assessed the above and recommended that the design of the new plant was to be staged to cater initially for a 15-year planning horizon to

estimated contribution of 22.2% of the total PE in the Monasterevin agglomeration being attributable to industrial sources is likely to be an over-estimate. However, as discharges from industrial sources to the sewerage network are not measured separately, it is impossible to prove or disprove this contention.

As a result of the above, it is likely that a projected industrial contribution of 2,700PE by 2023 is unlikely to be reached.

4. The map provided in the Attachment to Section B.5 lists an additional storm water overflow point SW-4. Also a storm water holding tank has been displayed on the map of the WWTP.

- (a) Provide the information required for all storm water overflows in Sections B, C, D, E and F.
- (b) Confirm if each storm water overflow is in *compliance with the DoEHLG "Procedures and Criteria in Relation to Storm Water Overflows, 1995"*.
- (c) *If any overflows do not comply, confirm what measures are been taken to bring these points into compliance and the associated timeframe.*
- (d) *Confirm the outfall identification code and the grid location of the possible discharge from the WWTP storm water holding tank during a storm / emergency event into the receiving water body.*
- (e) *Confirm the frequency and duration of activation of emergency overflow to receiving waters.*
- (f) *Provide details required by Section D.2 for SW-4.*

(a) Please refer to attached revised Drawing B.5 showing overflows SW2, SW3 & SW4. It has been clarified that SW-4 is an emergency overflow from a foul pumping station and not a storm overflow.

(b) The pumping station (emergency overflow SW4) transfers 6 X Dry Weather Flow (6DWF) which roughly equates to Formula 'A' as outlined in the DoEHLG publication *Procedures and Criteria in relation to Storm Water Overflows*. The storm tank (storm overflow SW2) on the WWTP provides 2 hours storage at 3DWF and thus complies with the DoEHLG guidelines.

(c) There are no further proposals at this time for upgrading works on storm overflows within the agglomeration.

(d) The storm overflow from the WWTP storm holding tank is identified as SW2 in Table D.2 submitted with the original application.

(e) There is currently no network model or information available as there is no facility in place to record and measure emergency overflows to receiving waters.

(f) Please see attached revised Table D.2.

5. Update Section F.1 with respect to the new WWTP.

(a) Complete the flow diagram in Circular L8/08 "Water Services Investment and Rural Water Programmes – Protection of Natural Heritage and National Monuments" issued by the DoEHLG, to determine if an appropriate assessment is required.

(a) Provide details of answers to each section of this flow diagram.

(b) If an appropriate assessment is required, a completed assessment must be submitted in response to this notice.

(c) Please refer to the Agency's guidance document "Waste Water Discharge Licensing – Appropriate Assessment" with regard to the above.

The Environment Department of Kildare County Council have contacted the National Parks & Wildlife Service and have carried out a screening process in accordance with the above request. The findings are attached. It is not considered practicable to complete a screening process followed by an Appropriate Assessment within the initial response time requested by the Environmental Protection Agency.

This requirement is currently being addressed by Kildare County Council in a manner that makes efficient use of current resources having regard to the large number of discharge licence applications being submitted by Kildare County Council under the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007 (S.I. No. 684 of 2007) and the specialist consultancy services that will be required to carry out the necessary assessments. It is proposed that the procurement of specialist consultants will be required in the event that an Appropriate Assessment is deemed necessary. This will be arranged when a brief for the extent of required services has been finalised.

6. Confirm if any emissions are exceeding ELVs outlined in the relevant Directives in Section G.1.

(a) If certain parameters are exceeding ELVs state these parameters and list any actions being taken to identify the sources and action to prevent further exceedances.

Monasterevin WWTP is complying with the requirements set out under the Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations (UWWTR) 2001 (S.I. No. 254 of 2001) and 2004 (S.I. No. 440 of 2004) and has done since it was first commissioned in 2005. This is evidenced by the returns that Kildare County Council make to the Environmental Protection Agency on an annual basis in relation to the compliance of reportable wastewater treatment plants under the UWWTR. There are currently no proposals in relation to the above query.

7. Confirm if there are any pumping stations in the system.

(a) If present state their grid location and how these pumping stations deal with emergency events.

Please refer to attached Drawing "Location of Pumpstations" showing grid locations for foul pumping stations which are under the charge of Kildare County

Council. The only foul pumping station in the charge of Kildare County Council with an emergency overflow is that with grid ref. E 262387, N 209987 (SW4). The remaining foul pumping stations are not equipped with emergency overflows. These foul pumping stations are inspected by Kildare County Council staff a number of times a week. The pumps are installed in a duty/standby arrangement so that a standby pump is available in the event of the duty pump failing. Pump failure would be evident at the time of an inspection and would be resolved as soon as possible depending on the cause of the failure.

8. Provide a description of the SW-1 outfall i.e. outfall diameter and valve type.

The outfall is a diffuser type submerged on the bed of the River Barrow with a main pipe diameter of 375mm.

We hope that the above is satisfactory. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned (Tel: (045) 980550).

Yours sincerely,


G. Halton,
Senior Executive Officer.

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Memo:

Mr. N. Bradley,
County Manager.

Re: Report Prepared in Accordance Article 134 of the Local Government Planning & Development Regulations 1994.

Proposal: Monasterevin Sewerage Scheme.

(A) Description

To augment and improve the sewerage system for Monasterevin and its environs through the implementation of the above scheme. The project is comprised of the following works:

1. Upgrading and extending the sewerage network in the town and its environs.
2. The provision of a new wastewater treatment works on the site of the existing overloaded works to treat flows to the required standard before discharging to the River Barrow. The existing site will be extended to accommodate this development and include the provision of a new access road and entrance onto the National Primary Route N9 within the town.

(B) Implications of the Development on the Planning of the Area:

The new plant will be located on the site of the existing wastewater treatment works which is zoned 'Amenity Open Space' in the Monasterevin Development Plan 1996. The provision of Utility Structures is Open for Consideration in the Development Plan.

It is a specific objective of the Monasterevin Development Plan 1996 to:

US1: replace existing treatment plant with a new one catering for a population equivalent of 5,500,

US2: prevent/eliminate foul discharge to the surface water systems,

US3: to prevent/eliminate the discharge of surface water to the foul water systems,

US4: protect the water quality of the River Barrow and Grand Canal through the provision of appropriate foul sewerage treatment and disposal.

It is also a specific objective of the Development Plan to:

AR2: protect the amenity of the River Barrow, Canal Bank, the aqueduct and the stone parapets along Cassidy's Stream,

AR6: preserve significant trees and groups of trees which are of special amenity value through the use of tree preservation orders and other measures...

This specific objective includes trees along the River Barrow.

AR7: ensure that the replacement planting is provided in all cases where mature deciduous trees are felled,

AR10: to protect views along the riverside particularly from roads and bridges,

AR12: continue with the development of riverside, canal bank and other walking routes in conjunction with relevant statutory and voluntary bodies.

The site is located across the River Barrow from 'Moore Abbey' which is listed in the Monastervin Development Plan 1996 (IP3), as an Item Of Architectural, Historical, Archaeological, Amenity, Townscape and Artistic Interest Worthy of Preservation, and is therefore a 'Protected Structure' under the Local Government Planning & Development Act 1999.

The site located along the bank of the River Barrow, although not identified in the Record of Monument and Places as established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994, may contain archaeological remains.

There is no development in the immediate vicinity of the new plant.

The existing wastewater treatment plant is a partially combined surface and foul system with a capacity of 725-population equivalent. At present the hydraulic and biological load is six times the design load leaving the wastewater treatment plant seriously overloaded resulting in a poor quality effluent discharging to the River Barrow. The existing sewers have inadequately capacity for collection and transport of domestic foul sewer at peak flow conditions.

The proposed wastewater treatment plant and the upgrading and extension of the sewerage network will adequately treat the existing and projected flows from the town and its environs. The wastewater treatment plant will be required to meet the effluent quality of the standards as set out in the E.U. Urban Wastewater Directive of 1991, The River Barrow Water Quality Management Plan of 1985 and The Water Quality Standards for Phosphorus Regulations 1998.

The site is located in a wooded area along the River Barrow. The site is heavily wooded with mostly deciduous trees, consisting of oak, sycamore, hazel and elder, although there are some conifers also present. The under-canopy is also regenerating with the above species.

While there might appear to be a conflict between the Specific Objectives contained in paragraph 2:8 and the specific objective AR6(1) of the Monasterevin Development Plan 1996, it is my opinion that a balance can be struck in the interests of proper planning and development which will allow the proposed development to proceed.

While the proposed development will result in the loss of a substantial number of trees a properly prepared and implemented landscaping plan will ameliorate any short-term loss of amenity in the area. In addition, care will have to be taken that the proposed works will not cause loss of visual amenity, particularly from the 'Protected Structure' at Moore Abbey and from the adjacent Barrow Bridge.

(C) Submissions/Observations:

Notice of the proposed development was advertised in the Leinster Leader and Nationalist newspaper in accordance with Article 131 of the Local Government Planning & Development Regulations 1994.

Plans and particulars relating to this development were placed on public display in the offices of Kildare County Council for one calendar month from Friday 4th of August 2000.

The following Prescribed Bodies were informed of the proposed development in accordance with Article 132 of the Local Government Planning & Development Regulations 1994:

- An Taisce,
- Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaelacht and The Islands,
- The Arts Council,
- Bord Failte Eireann,
- South Western Area Health Board,
- Eastern Regional Fisheries Board.

No submissions were received from the public or the Prescribed Bodies listed above.

(D) Issues Raised In Submissions/Observations:

No submissions were made to the Planning Authority in response to the notices placed in newspaper circulating in the area or following the display period in the Local Authority offices.

(E) Conclusion

I have examined the drawings and particulars submitted with this Part X procedure and having regard to the Monastervin Development Plan 1996, other relevant requirements and the proper planning and development of the area it is recommend that the proposed development should generally proceed as designed with the following conditions:

1. Prior to commencement of development, the requirements of Dúchas 'The Heritage Service' should be ascertained regarding proposed works traversing areas of any Archaeological Potential and any of its requirements to secure the protection of the archaeological heritage of the area complied with.
2. A detailed landscaping and planting scheme shall be prepared by a qualified Landscape Architect/Horticulturist and the site and its environs shall be planted and landscaped in accordance with this plan. The plan shall include full details of proposed species and densities, and a timetable for the completion of the work, related to the completion of the development and details to minimise the visual impact of the development on 'Moore Abbey', the bridge over the River Barrow and the National Primary Route N9.
3. Before commencement of development revised plans and elevations of the proposed Sludge Press Building and the Inlet Works Building shall be prepared

providing for a higher level of design and finish having regard to their bulk and mass.

4. The proposed new entrance shall be developed in accordance with the detailed requirements of the Roads Design Section.
5. The existing entrance shall be closed up permanently and the existing roadway shall be planted in accordance with the landscaping plan mentioned above.
6. Any boundary fencing shall be colour coated.
7. No building or structure shall exceed 6.0 metres in height.
8. The external walls of all buildings shall be rendered and roofs shall be blue / black or slate grey using tiles or slates.
9. All tanks shall be painted dark green or dark grey.
10. A noise impact study shall be prepared and implemented and shall include all necessary noise abatement measures having regard to best operating practice.
11. The plant shall be designed and maintained using best available practices to minimise noxious emissions from the site.

G. Roche,
Assistant Planner.
18/10/00.

Michael Kenny
A/Senior Planner.

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MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 23RD OCTOBER 2000 IN ST. MARY'S NAAS

PRESENT: Councillors R. Hendy (Cathaoirleach), S. Griffin, B. Hillis, F. Dukes, T. Conway, J. McGinley, J. Keane, C. Murphy, M. Glennon, T. McEvoy, T. Lawlor, K. Walsh, F. O'Loughlin, G. Conway, P. Kelly, M. Fitzpatrick, P. J. Sheridan, J. O'Neill, M. Miley. E. Stagg TD, S. Power TD, J. Wall TD, Senators J. Dardis, S. Ó Fearghail

ALSO PRESENT: N. Bradley Co. Manager, T. Skehan Asst. Co. Manager, S. Stokes Co. Secretary, J. Lynch Co. Engineer, E. O'Sullivan Finance Officer and other officials

Vote of Congratulations

Cllr. O'Neill and Deputy Power proposed a vote of congratulations to the Moorefield team on winning the County Championship the previous day.

1/1000 – Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the monthly meeting of 25th September 2000 were adopted.

Cllr. Glennon proposed an amendment to the minutes of the Special Meeting of 9th October 2000 that her name be included in the attendance list. The minutes, as amended, were adopted.

2/1000 – Confirmation of Area Committee Minutes

Celbridge Area Committee – 8th September 2000

The minutes of the Celbridge Area Committee meeting of 8/9/00 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Walsh.

Leixlip Area Committee – 1st September, 4th September 2000

The minutes of the Leixlip Area Committee meetings of 1/9/00 and 4/9/00 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. McGinley, seconded by Cllr. Murphy.

Kildare Area Committee – 10th July, 28th July, 22nd September 2000

The minutes of the Kildare Area Committee meetings of 10/7/00, 28/7/00 and 22/9/00 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Ó Fearghail, seconded by Cllr. O'Neill.

Naas Area Committee – 20th July 2000

The minutes of the Naas Area Committee meeting of 20/7/00 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Hillis, seconded by Cllr. Conway.

- Barrettstown Lawns – Phase 2 Newbridge
- Beechgrove Estate, Kildare Town
- Meadow Court Estate, Clane
- The Meadows, Clane
- Hartwell Green Estate, Kill

6/1000 – Monasterevin Sewerage Scheme – Part X, Local Government (Planning & Development) Regulations

It was noted that a report on this project had been circulated to members. It was agreed, on the proposal of Senator Ó Fearghail, seconded by Cllr. Keane, that the proposed development of the Monasterevin Sewerage Scheme should proceed as per report.

7/1000 – Nomination of Members to Task Force on Travellers

The Cathaoirleach referred to the special meeting held earlier in the month at which it was agreed that a Task Force be established comprising members of the Council, the Gardai, Revenue Commissioners, the Health Board and the VEC. He suggested three members from the Council and one each from the urban district councils be nominated. The County Manager added that the Task Force would look at the needs of travelers, issues surrounding non-indigenous travelers, the Council's legal role, remedies and ways to minimize difficulties. A detailed research paper would be prepared setting out the background to the problem, the legal position, case law, precedent, options available. It was envisaged that it would meet as often as necessary and report back to full Council within three to six months. The following members were agreed:

- Cllr. O'Neill on the proposal of Senator Ó Fearghail, seconded by Cllr. Fitzpatrick
- Deputy Stagg on the proposal of Cllr. McGinley
- Cllr. Dukes on the proposal of Deputy Power, seconded by Cllr. Glennon

8/1000 – Deputation from Kildare Failte

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Tom Malone and a deputation from Kildare Failte. Margaret Edghill from the National Centre for Equestrian & Field Sports then made a presentation outlining the objectives of County Kildare Failte, the objectives of the 2001 Marketing Plan, the proposed marketing programme for 2001 and the cost of this programme. She said Kildare Failte was seeking £60,000 from Kildare County Council towards the overall cost of the marketing programme of £75,000, the balance coming from membership contributions (£10,000), advertising from the trade (£5,000) and grant aid (to be confirmed). In reply to questions from the members Ms. Edghill said that Bord Failte sells Ireland as a tourist destination and is not involved at regional or county level. MERTA does support Kildare Failte. She said there was a lot of negativity towards KF and the contribution from Kildare County Council in the past was too small – only £25,000 in 1999. She said Kildare was the second most visited county in the MERTA region and its visitor attractions ought to be further highlighted.

Cllr. Fitzpatrick endorsed the presentation and proposed that the Estimates provide for increased investment in Kildare Failte.

This is a response to Further Information Request due on the 22nd of September 2009.

Reference: D0177-01 (Monasterevin).

Q 5. Complete the flow diagram in Circular L8/08 to determine if an appropriate assessment is required.

(i) Provide details of answers to each section of this flow diagram

(ii) If an appropriate assessment is required, a completed assessment must be submitted in response to this notice.

(iii) Please refer to the Agency's guidance document 'Waste Water Discharge Licencing – Appropriate Assessment' with regard to the above.

Question 5 (i), (ii) and (iii) are addressed below through screening for Appropriate Assessment in accordance with EPA Guidance and Circular L8/08 documents.

Stage 1 – Screening

Step 1 – Management of the Site

The plan is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the Site (code 002162).

Step 2 – Description of Plan or Project

The Monasterevin Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) is located in Monasterevin town, Co. Kildare. The WWTP is situated between the N7 and the River Barrow. It discharges treated effluent into the main channel of the River Barrow. It has a design capacity of 9,000 P.E. The treatment process has been designed so that the treatment works can cater for 6,000 P.E. initially and increases to 9,000 P.E. The treatment works comprises of screening and the use of grit traps, anaerobic sludge treatment followed by anoxic treatment. After aeration and final settlement, phosphorus dosing equipment is used. The final stage of the treatment works involves sludge de-watering and the removal of sludge off site¹.

¹ Information sourced from the Monasterevin Waste Discharge Licence application to the EPA www.epa.ie

The primary discharge point to the River Barrow is located Southeast of the treatment plant at E262,631 N209,882.

It was necessary to consider this project **in combination** with other plans or projects in the catchment impacting on the aquatic environment.

The Slate River, (into which Rathangan WWTP discharges treated effluent) rises near Prosperous and flows in a southwesterly direction towards Rathangan. From Rathangan, the Slate River flows into Co. Offaly where it joins the Figile River, downstream of Bracknagh. The Figile River flows into the Cushina River on the Kildare/Offaly border near the town land of Pollaghragraigue. The Cushina then flows into Co. Kildare where it now becomes the Black River. The Black River flows along the border of Co. Offaly and Co. Kildare until it joins the River Barrow (the Site) at Passlands just upstream of Monasterevin and downstream of Portarlington WWTP (Co. Laois).

Rathangan WWTP is situated about 10km North of Monasterevin on the River Slate and Kildare WWTP is located approximately 11km East of Monasterevin on the Tully Stream. Portarlington WWTP in Co. Laois discharges to the River Barrow upstream of Monasterevin. It has a capacity of approximately 3,000 PE and a current load of 7,000 P.E. However, it is committed to a capacity of 9,000PE through granted planning permissions to date. The WWTP consists of Preliminary, Primary, Secondary and Tertiary treatment². There are two Section 4 licensed activities in the vicinity of Monasterevin WWTP one discharging to ground and the other discharging to the Tully Stream. There is an IPPC licensed activity operating in Nurney. (See Figure 1 attached).

Step 3 – Characteristics of Site

The WWTP is located in the River Barrow and River Nore candidate SAC site code, 002162. The River Barrow is 192km long and the catchment area is approximately 2,983km². Some of the larger tributaries contributing to this catchment upstream of Monasterevin include the Figile, the Black River, the Slate and the Cushina³. The Tully Stream enters the River Barrow downstream of Monasterevin. According to the NPWS the qualifying interests of cSAC 002162 include habitats such as those listed in Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive including alluvial wet woodlands and petrifying springs, old oak woodlands, floating river

² Information sourced from the Portarlington Waste Discharge Licence application to the EPA www.epa.ie

³ Information sourced from the Waste Discharge Licence Application (Non-Technical Summary) www.epa.ie

vegetation, estuary, tidal mudflats, *Salicornia* mudflats, Atlantic salt meadows, Mediterranean salt meadows, dry heath and eutrophic tall herbs. Some of the species it was selected for include Sea Lamprey, River Lamprey, Brook Lamprey, Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Nore Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Crayfish, Twaité Shad, Atlantic Salmon, Otter, *Vertigo moulinsiana* and the plant Killarney Fern. All of which are listed in Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive⁴ (92/43/EEC).

In order to assess the likely impacts that this project (in combination with other projects) is having on the Site, the biological quality of the River Barrow and its tributaries were investigated. The most recent Q values obtainable are from the EPA Biological Survey 2006.

The Q value obtained for station location 'Pass Bridge' directly upstream of Monasterevin WWTP is Q3-4. There is a slight deterioration at the next station downstream of the WWTP at Fisherstown House where a Q3 was obtained. At the next station further downstream again at Dunrally Bridge the Q value increases to a Q4, see Table 1 below.

Table 1: Q Ratings for the River Barrow 2006

River	River Code	Station No.	Station Location	Grid Reference	Target-Q	Q-2006
Barrow	14B01	1000	Pass Bridge	N 622 110	4	3-4
Barrow	14B01	1300	Ford E of Fisherstown House	N 633 058	4	3
Barrow	14B01	1400	Dunrally Bridge	N 636 018	4	4
Barrow	14B01	1500	Bert Bridge	S 659 969	4	3-4
Barrow	14B01	1590	0.4 km u/s Athy Br LHS	S 681 944	4	#
Barrow	14B01	1900	Tankardstown Bridge	S 704 882	4	4
Barrow	14B01	2000	Maganey Bridge	S 717 847	4	#

The EPA have assigned an interim classification of 'poor' for the Water Body Code IE_SE_14_196 Barrow, Trib of Barrow. The overall risk assessment came out as '1a'

⁴ Taken from the Site Synopsis from the NPWS website.

meaning 'at risk'. The water body is to be restored by 2015 (Draft River Basin Management Plan (SERBD) www.serbd.com).

Tables 2 and 3 set out the results of river water quality monitoring for nutrients, carried out by KCC both upstream and downstream of Monasterevin WWTP for 2008. Only BOD and Ammonia (NH₃) can be compared to Environmental Quality Standards (EQS) taken from the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009.

Table 2: Upstream physico-chemical monitoring results

Date	B.O.D.	C.O.D.	S.S.	pH	NH ₃	Total P
21/05/2008	2	33	5	8.4	0.03	0.14
16/07/2008	1	18	6	8.11	1	0.16
17/07/2008	1	43	8.8	7.68	0.1	0.18
23/07/2008	1	35	1	7.93	0.1	0.16
14/08/2008	1	70	5.6	7.68	0.1	0.18
18/08/2008	2	12	1	7.8	1.3	0.21
22/09/2008	1	11	1	7.5	0.2	0.33

Table 3: Downstream physico-chemical monitoring results

Date	B.O.D.	C.O.D.	S.S.	pH	NH ₃	Total P
21/05/2008	2	26	5	8.4	0.03	0.18
16/07/2008	1	19	8	8.05	1	0.19
17/07/2008	1	42	6	7.6	0.1	0.28
23/07/2008	1	38	1	7.91	0.1	0.18
14/08/2008	1	78	5	7.8	0.1	0.18
18/08/2008	2	10	8	7.8	0.7	0.25
22/09/2008	4	11	3	7.7	0.2	0.38

Table 4 below compares the results obtained to the EQS as set out in the Surface Water Regulations, 2009. The arithmetic mean was used in the comparison and both parameters were measured as mg/l. The upstream BOD was the only parameter in line with the EQS. The downstream BOD slightly exceeded the 'good status' EQS. Both the upstream and downstream Ammonia levels exceeded the EQS but it is unlikely that this is caused by the WWTP as the downstream mean is even lower than the upstream mean.

Table 4: Comparison of mean upstream and downstream results and EQS

Sample Type	B.O.D.	EQS	NH ₃	EQS
Upstream	1.3	1.3	0.4	0.065
Downstream	1.7	1.5	0.3	0.065

As previously noted, Portarlington WWTP is estimated to be near its capacity of 8,000PE at the moment and is committed to a capacity of 9,000PE through granted planning permissions to date. An upgrade of the plant is planned for completion in 2014 and its size will be based on population projections up to 2027. At present the treatment process consists of Preliminary Treatment where screening takes place followed by grit removal.

There are two activated sludge systems and phosphorus removal is achieved through ferric dosing. A Sequential Batch Reactor⁵ is expected to be commissioned in coming weeks.

There is an IPPC licensed activity, at Nurney which is approximately 9km Southeast of Monasterevin. There are no direct discharges to surface waters from this activity, all solid and liquid waste is disposed of by landspreading on landbanks within the River Barrow catchment so it is unlikely that it would be having an impact on the quality of the River Barrow.

As the discharge point of the WWTP is located in a flood area it is possible that it could be impacting on the terrestrial environment during flood events. However, if the waste is assimilated by the river then this should not be a problem.

Step 4 – Assessment of Significance

The initial screening process involved answering the questions of the flow diagram in circular L8/08 'Water Services Investment and Rural Water Programmes' issued by the DoEHLG to determine if an appropriate assessment is required.

1. Is the development in a nature conservation site? Yes - the River Barrow and River Nore candidate SAC site code 002162.



ASSESS IMPACTS

The WWTP is located in a nature conservation site (cSAC). The assessment of this project in combination with others in the catchment has shown that there is a slight deterioration in biological river water quality downstream of the WWTP.

Screening for Appropriate Assessment carried out in accordance with Circular L8/08 and the EPA Waste Discharge Licensing guidance note on Appropriate Assessments for the

⁵ Information sourced from the Portarlington Waste Discharge Licence application to the EPA www.epa.ie

purposes of the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations, 2007 (S.I. No. 684 of 2007), has shown that an Appropriate Assessment is required for Monasterevin WWTP to assess the impacts of the project on the European Site.

(ii) A complete Appropriate Assessment will be provided.

(iii) Please see part (i) above.

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