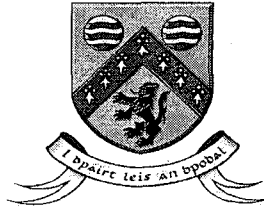


Obj ①
W0026-03



LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL

**SUBMISSION BY LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL TO
THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY IN
RELATION TO THE PROPOSED DECISION FOR A
WASTE LICENSE REVIEW FOR NON HAZARDOUS
LANDFILL AT KYLETALESHA – W0026-03**

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**JOHN O' DONOGHUE,
SENIOR ENGINEER,
ENVIRONMENT,
ARAS AN CHONTAE,
PORTLAOISE,
CO. LAOIS.**

12TH NOVEMBER 2009

Dear Sir,

I refer to the proposed decision (PD) by the Agency in respect of the Council's landfill facility at Kyletalesha, Mountmellick Rd., Portlaoise, Co. Laois, licence number W0026-03

The Council, as the licence holder, wishes to object to the following specific conditions of your PD:

1. Condition 3.2.1 & Schedule B

The definition of 'Specified' Engineering Works (SEW)' contained in schedule B and the requirements of condition 3.2.1 is onerous and does not allow the flexibility required to modify some works at construction stage as and when on-site problems are encountered. This condition may therefore delay works to an unnecessary degree and result in unnecessary costs. The installation of sacrificial horizontal wells to capture gas as the cell is being filled is an example of this.

We request that this condition is amended to allow an appropriate degree of flexibility to vary construction details to reflect on-site construction difficulties.

2. Conditions 5.14.1. & 5.15.3

I refer to the calculation factors for biodegradable municipal waste (BMW) content of municipal waste streams as presented at the EPA Waste Workshop held in Athlone on the 21st & 22nd October, 2009 (ref. Ms. Regina Campbell) and your requirements to now limit 'to a maximum of 40% by weight of municipal solid waste (MSW) accepted for disposal to the body of the landfill shall comprise biodegradable municipal waste'.

These requirements do not, in our opinion, take into account the achievements by Local Authorities in the reduction of our national dependence on landfill by developing an integrated waste system based on the European Waste Hierarchy of prevention, minimisation, reuse etc.

All five Local Authorities in the Midland Region have adopted and implemented waste management Bye-Laws to facilitate the rolling out of a three bin collection system for populations of greater than 1500 as required by reference to Circular WPPR 17/08 entitled 'National Strategy On Biodegradable Waste'- Implementation Of Segregated 'Brown Bin' Collection For Bio Waste And Home Composting, dated 31st July, 2008.

Section 3.3 of the Circular calls on Local Authorities to provide for, as a matter of urgency-

- **The implementation of source segregated collection for organic waste in urban areas (i.e. urban agglomerations of greater than 1,500 persons – the Census of Population 2006 reports that 61% of the population of Ireland reside in urban areas of greater than 1,500 persons),**

- **The promotion of home composting and/or community composting outside of these areas.**

It now appears that even if we achieve a 100% roll out of a three bin collection system across the entire population of the Region, we will not achieve the targets set out in 5.2.3.(i) without the intervention of further mechanical and biological treatment.

This is contrary to the current Midlands Waste Management Plan.

There is also a danger that the emphasis on source separation which Local Authorities have promoted through the introduction of Bye-Laws may be diluted if mechanical treatment is required irrespective of the 3 bin system. A further issue is that many rural Counties will not have 100% coverage with a 3 bin system. It is not financially attractive or enforceable for the private sector to offer a waste collection service to all rural households. This issue makes achieving the 40% target even more unrealistic.

We, therefore, request that you reconsider the approved calculation factors for the BMW content of municipal waste streams or amend the above condition 5.2.3.

2.1 Domestic Users of the Landfill

Unlike the private sector landfills most local authorities landfills accommodate usage by domestic customers who visit both the Recycling Facility (which most LA Landfills have as part of the facility) and the landfill for disposal. While we fully accept that there is a need to get domestic users to separate out their recyclables and food waste the new landfill license conditions will entail much additional work by LA landfill staff. Of course, it would be much easier in terms of enforcement to stop domestic customers using the landfill part of the facility in the first place. However, Local Authorities who operate a landfill provide a service and accommodating domestic customers is viewed as part of our Public Service Obligation. Members of the public who use our facility will be required to separate out their recyclable material as a minimum. We will also encourage householders to use home composters where possible. Those householders who do separate out their food waste but cannot do home composting will want to take the separated food waste to an authorised facility. This will become a major issue as we promote the requirement to separate food waste – do they have to take recyclables to one facility and food waste to another. We will have to consider providing some intermediate facility to accommodate this.

3. Condition 12.1.1 Fees

The increase in annual contribution from €21,826 to €28,920 does not reflect the current economic constraints within which Local Authorities now operate in and in particular the universal decline in landfill income across both the public and private sectors.

We request a minimum of a 20% reduction in the annual fee until such time as the economy recovers.

Summary.

In summary, the Council hope you will consider favourably the above request and I am available to clarify any issues at your convenience.

I attach a fee of €500 in support of this objection.

Yours faithfully,

John O' Donoghue,
Senior Engineer,
Environment Section,
Laois County Council.

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Ann Kehoe

From: John O' Donoghue [jodonoghue@laoiscoco.ie]
Sent: 16 November 2009 11:06
To: Licensing Staff
Subject: New Applicant objection entered for Reg no: W0026-03. (Reference Number: W0026-03-091116110614)
Importance: High
Attachments: LCC W002603comments.doc

Title: Mr
First Name: John
SurName: O' Donoghue
Organisation Name: Laois County Council
Address Line 1: Aras An Chontae
Address Line 2: Portlaoise
Address Line 3: Co Laois
County: Laois
Post Code: 0000
Phone Number: County Laois
Email: jodonoghue@laoiscoco.ie
Objector Type: Applicant
Oral Hearing: No

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Ann Kehoe

From: Licensing Staff
Sent: 16 November 2009 11:08
To: jodonoghue@laoiscoco.ie
Cc: Licensing Staff
Subject: Successful Objection Payment for Licence Number W0026-03. (Reference Number: W0026-03-091116110614)

Thank you for your online Applicant Objection for licence number W0026-03. Your objection has been received by the Environmental Protection Agency and will be acknowledged once the Objection has been validated.

A fee of €500 will be debited from your credit card once the objection has been confirmed.

Your reference number is W0026-03-091116110614. Please retain this for future reference.

Regards,

Environmental Protection Agency

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