



## OFFICE OF CLIMATE, LICENSING & RESOURCE USE

### ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSING PROGRAMME MEMORANDUM

<b>TO:</b>	DARA LYNOTT, DIRECTOR
<b>C.C:</b>	Frank Clinton, Programme Manager
<b>FROM:</b>	Brian Meaney, Senior Scientific Officer
<b>DATE:</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> December 2009
<b>RE:</b>	Request for a Technical Amendment to Waste Licence Register Number <b>W0053-03</b> held by <b>Greenstar Ltd</b> in relation to a waste facility at <b>Fassaroe, Bray, Co. Wicklow</b>

#### Introduction

Greenstar operate an integrated waste management facility at Fassaroe, Bray, Co. Wicklow for the acceptance, transfer and processing of municipal waste, commercial and industrial waste and construction and demolition waste. The facility is located about 400m west of the N11 at the Bray South junction. It is authorised to accept up to 200,000 tonnes per annum of household and commercial waste (143,560 tonnes), construction and demolition waste (54,040 tonnes) and hazardous waste (2,400 tonnes - at a civic waste facility).

The facility was originally licensed on 22 December 1999 (as Noble Waste Disposal Ltd). Reviewed licences were granted on 3 April 2003 and 20 June 2006. The licence was technically amended on 3 April 2009 to allow for the shredding of timber outdoors (the licence had previously required that the licensee enclose the process).

#### Details of Request For Technical Amendment

The licensee has requested a technical amendment of the licence, Register No W0053-03, under Section 42B of the Waste Management Acts 1996 to 2008. The licensee is seeking authorisation to process dry mixed recyclable waste (DMR) on a 24-hour, 7-day week basis. Operating hours at the facility are currently restricted by condition 1.6.2, which states, within the context of condition 1.6:

##### 1.6 Waste Acceptance Hours and Hours of Operation

- 1.6.1 With the exception of emergencies or as may be agreed by the Agency, waste shall be accepted at or despatched from the facility only between the hours of 7:30 to 19:00 Monday to Saturday inclusive.
- 1.6.2 The facility shall be operated only during the hours of 7:30 to 21:00 Monday to Saturday inclusive.
- 1.6.3 The facility shall not operate or accept/despatch waste on Sundays or Bank Holidays without the agreement of the Agency.

It is not proposed that any other waste processing operation (other than DMR) will take place outside the limitations of condition 1.6.2.

It is not proposed that any waste will be accepted at or dispatched from the facility outside of the limitations of condition 1.6.1.

The licensee has proposed the following: DMR will be processed within the confines of the existing process building where the equipment is located. No vehicles will be moved into or out of the facility after 19:00 (condition 1.6.1). Road trailers will be loaded overnight, but all will be parked in place by 21:00. A shunting unit will move trailers around the loading area, but this will be minimal.

Processing of the DMR involves the following: Waste (whether mixed or source segregated) is deposited on the floor inside the process building. Segregated waste is baled directly within the process building. Mixed recyclables are loaded by mechanical shovel into a hopper and onto a mechanical/manual sorting line for the removal of paper, cardboard, aluminium, steel, plastic bottles and plastic film, which are then baled. The loading shovel will operate only within the process building. Baled materials are stored on-site or loaded into 40ft containers for dispatch.

Greenstar have identified a need for 24/7 operation due to an increased demand for DMR processing capacity. Greenstar also note that several competing facilities are already permitted to operate longer days.

In June 2009, the licensee commissioned a noise survey to evaluate the impact of the DMR process on residences in the vicinity of the facility. There are 17 residences within 250m of the facility. The nearest residences are located approximately 130m from the DMR process building. There have been no complaints relating to noise at the facility during 2007, 2008 and up to August 2009 (the date of the request for technical amendment). The noise survey concluded that the contribution from the DMR process is 42-44dB at the site boundary and <37dB at either of the two closest residences (noise sensitive receptors). Measurements were carried out during operation of the DMR process (before 21:00) and after the site had ceased operations at 21:00. The N11 was found to be a significant noise contributor at both times. The noise survey recommends the following precautionary actions be taken to prevent and reduce the potential for noise emissions:

- replace reversing alarms with white noise reversing alarms;
- measure noise emissions after implementation of 24-hour operation, including after midnight; and
- shut off three fans located on the process building after 21:00 as they are not needed for the proposed 24-hour operation.

In response, I note that the measured noise emissions from the DMR process are low, particularly at the noise sensitive locations (NSL). I also note that at NSL2, neither the DMR process nor vehicle alarms were audible at 20:30, i.e. during operation. For this reason, I am satisfied that the DMR operation will not have a noise impact before 21:00.

Given the constraints of the waste licence – that operations cease at 21:00 – the licensee was not able to gauge the relative impact of the DMR operation in the area as other noise sources, particularly N11 traffic, ease during the night. It would appear however that even in the absence of ambient noise, the noise levels expected from the DMR process should not exceed urban noise levels. For this reason, I recommend granting the request for technical amendment.

## Recommendations

In relation to the requested amendment of condition 1.6.2, I recommend acceptance of the licensee's request, subject to 24/7 plant operations being limited to DMR processing, as follows:

- 1.6.2 The facility shall be operated only between the hours of 07:30 and 21:00 Monday to Saturday inclusive, except for the processing of dry mixed recyclable waste in the Phase 1 building which may be operated on a 24-hour day and 7-day week basis in accordance with proposals submitted by the licensee on 13 August 2009.

In accordance with the noise survey recommendation, and to ensure through measurement that night-time operations do not have an unexpected noise impact, I recommend inclusion of the following new condition:

- 6.8.5 Following commencement of night-time operation of the dry mixed recyclable waste process, the licensee shall carry out monthly noise monitoring surveys during operation of the process after midnight at noise sensitive locations to demonstrate compliance with the conditions of this licence. At least six monthly surveys shall be carried out.

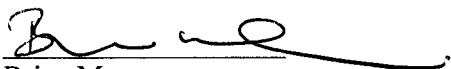
I also recommend inclusion of the following new condition to ensure implementation of the commitments made by the licensee in the request for technical amendment:

- 6.8.6 After 21:00 and where dry mixed recyclable waste is being processed: outdoor vehicle movements shall be solely for the purpose of servicing the overnight processing of mixed dry recyclable waste; reversing sirens or warning signals on outdoor vehicles shall be of a flat spectrum (white noise) type; and the three fans on the outside of the Phase 1 building shall be turned off.

I have received correspondence from the Office of Environmental Enforcement who have confirmed that the requested change cannot be accommodated under the existing licence.

For the reasons outlined above I recommend that the Agency agree to a technical amendment of the Greenstar Bray Licence (Reg. No. W0053-03) under Section 42B of the Waste Management Acts 1996 and 2008.

Signed:



Brian Meaney  
Senior Scientific Officer  
Environmental Licensing Programme  
Office of Climate, Licensing & Resource Use