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By email

22 December 2009

Re: Corranure Landfill W0077-02

Dear Dr. Bennett

I refer to your email dated 12 December 2009 addressed to the Agency. As you'll be aware, there is considerable activity ongoing with regard to the licensing and authorisation of the Corranure Landfill. There are two reviews of the landfill licence open at present as well as a new application. I would like to clarify the different reviews/applications that are ongoing. In chronological order:

1. As you will know, on 30 September 1998, Cavan County Council made a waste licence application to the Environmental Protection Agency in respect of the landfill at Corranure. A licence (register number W007-01) was granted by the EPA on 12 June 2001.
2. On 1 December 2003, Cavan County Council applied for a review of the waste licence. A reviewed licence (register number W0077-02) was granted by the EPA on 10 May 2005.
3. On 22 September 2008, Cavan County Council applied for a review of the waste licence. This review has been given the register number W0077-04 by the EPA. The Council have requested a reduction in the area of the landfill that they are formally responsible for – that area being confined to the closed cells and concerning their aftercare and management. This application remains under assessment by the Agency. You are entitled to make a submission on this application and the Agency will take your submission into account in making its decision on the application. Further details on the submission process are at <http://www.epa.ie/whatwedo/licensing/waste/>.
4. Also on 22 September 2008, Oxigen Environmental Ltd made an application for a new waste licence in respect of the active phase of Corranure Landfill. The application has been given the register number W0248-01 by the EPA. This application remains under assessment by the Agency. I note you have made a submission on this application and the Agency will take your submission into account in making its decision. Approximately 130 submissions have been made by third parties in relation to this application. The information provided in the submissions, and information held on public files by the EPA's Office of Environmental Enforcement, will inform the decision that will be made in relation to this application.

5. On 18 June 2009, the EPA initiated a review of the existing licence (W0077-02). This review was given the register number W0077-03. On that same date, the EPA initiated a review of 24 other landfill licences. Proposed Decisions (draft licences) were issued for all 25 landfills on 19 October 2009 and an objection period opened. A total of 15 of the Proposed Decisions were objected to, including Corranure, and these objections will now be assessed before a final decision is made in the new year by the Agency.

This general review of landfill licences was narrow in scope and was intended to primarily ensure that only treated waste is disposed of in landfills¹ and the acceptance of biodegradable municipal waste is progressively reduced². These are significant and important steps to take in the national regulation of landfills and are intended to help to:

- maximise the use and value of waste before it is disposed of to landfill;
- assist compliance with the EU Landfill Directive (1999/31/EC)³;
- reduce greenhouse gas emissions from landfills; and
- reduce the potential for odour at landfills.

One of the primary impacts of reducing the landfilling of biodegradable waste will be to reduce the potential for odour generation. In addition, the EPA decided to propose new odour prevention and control conditions in 13 of the landfill licences, including the Corranure licence⁴ and others that have been the subject of odour complaints.

This review (W0077-03) does not prejudice the decisions that remain to be made on the outstanding applications (W0077-04 and W0248-01) and the future operation of the landfill.

I hope the information assists you in understanding the licensing processes we are going through with the Corranure Landfill at present. Should you have questions on the review or application processes, you may telephone me at the number above or contact me by other means.

Yours sincerely,



Brian Meaney
Senior Scientific Officer
Environmental Licensing Programme

¹ See condition 5.2.6 of the Proposed Decision W0077-03 for Corranure Landfill.

² See condition 5.2.7 of the Proposed Decision.

³ The EU Landfill Directive, amongst other things, sets specific limits on the tonnage of biodegradable municipal waste (BMW) that can be accepted at landfills. The obligations under the Landfill Directive require the progressive reduction in the landfilling of biodegradable municipal waste, with specific targets set for July 2010, 2013 and 2016. Condition 5.2.7 of the Proposed Decision sets out the deadlines proposed for Corranure Landfill.

⁴ See condition 9.19 of the Proposed Decision.