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**INSPECTORS REPORT ON A WASTE WATER DISCHARGE  
CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORISATION APPLICATION**

**To:** Frank Clinton, Programme Manager

**From:** Kate Stafford Environmental Licensing Programme

**Date:** 28<sup>th</sup> September 2010

**RE:** Application for a Waste Water Discharge Authorisation from Monaghan County Council, for the agglomeration named Threemilehouse Waste Water Treatment Work, Reg. No. A0020-01

**Application Details**

Schedule of Discharge Authorised:	Discharges from agglomerations with a population equivalent less than 500
Certificate of Authorisation Application Received:	21 <sup>st</sup> December 2009
Submission(s) Received:	None

This application relates to the Threemilehouse agglomeration in County Monaghan. The agglomeration currently has a population equivalent (p.e.) of 133. The agglomeration is serviced by one waste water treatment plant (WWTP). The WWTP provides tertiary treatment, consisting of primary settlement, a rotating biological contactor (RBC) and reed beds, and has a design capacity of 250p.e.

The WWTP discharges to the Threemilehouse River (NB\_Blackwater68\_ConawaryTRIB\_ThreeMileHouse), a tributary of the Blackwater River. Based on the nearest EPA water quality monitoring station, 5km downstream, the biological Q-value is Q3.

There are no designated or protected areas (i.e. drinking water abstractions, bathing waters, shellfish waters, salmonid waters or *Margaritifera margaritifera*) downstream of the discharge from the agglomeration. Condition 3.3 of the Recommended Certificate of Authorisation (RCOA) states the discharge(s) from the waste water works shall not cause a deterioration in the status of the receiving surface water body.

The receiving water has been identified as being less than good status (biological Q-value <4). It is acknowledged that the discharges from the agglomeration may not be the only cause of the waterbody being less than good status. The Recommended Certificate of Authorisation

(RCOA) states that within twelve months the authorisation holder shall identify appropriate improvements to the sewerage system, including a waste water treatment system necessary to ensure all discharge(s) from the agglomeration contribute towards achieving at least good status in accordance with the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 and/or the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010.

The certificate of authorisation applicant was required to complete a screening of the potential impact of the discharge(s) from the agglomeration on the designated European Sites downstream of the agglomeration, where the screening identified a likely significant impact on a European site the applicant was required to complete an appropriate assessment. The certificate of authorisation applicant carried out a screening which identified that the discharges are not likely to have a significant impact on a European site.

The discharge(s) from the agglomeration are considered not likely to have a significant impact on the receiving waterbody subject to the Certificate of Authorisation Holder complying with the conditions of the RCOA.

**Recommendation**

I recommend that a Final Certificate of Authorisation be issued subject to the conditions and for the reasons as set out in the attached Recommended Certificate of Authorisation.

Signed

*pp* C. Foley  
Kate Stafford  
Inspector  
Office of Climate, Licensing and Resource Use