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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY

26 JUL 2010

22/07/2010

Ref: W0082-02/GC08CN

**Re: Request for Technical Amendment to Condition 4.2.1 (Proposed Civic Amenity Area),
Greenstar Environmental Services, Dock Road, Limerick (W0082-02)**

Dear Mr Meaney,

I refer to correspondence dated June 23rd from the Office of Environmental Enforcement (OEE) informing Greenstar Environmental Services (GES) that our proposal to operate a Civic Amenity Area (CAA) could not be accommodated under the Licence and advising that we submit a request to the Agency's Licensing Programme to determine if the proposal can be accommodated by means of a Technical Amendment. The correspondence between ourselves and the OEE on this matter is enclosed.

Details of Requested Changes

Greenstar Ltd recently acquired the ex Veolia site now named Greenstar Environmental Services Ltd. The facility (W0082-02) is licensed to accept up to 90,000 tonnes of waste annually comprising municipal, commercial and industrial and construction and demolition waste streams. The facility is situated on the County side of the City & County boundary in the west of the Limerick City suburbs. The activities carried out on site include the following:

- Recovery and baling of papers & card, soft & hard plastics and metal packaging
- Recovery and shredding of packaging and other timbers
- Bulking and transfer for composting of food and shredded garden wastes
- Transfer of water clarification sludge for landfill cover

Registered in Ireland No. 325120

Directors: G. Bailey, J. Dempsey, N. Parkinson,
E. Bolger (Secretary).
Registered Office: Burton Court, Burton Hall Road,
Sandyford, Dublin 18.

Affiliate Organisation, CIWM
Member of the IWMA
Corporate Affiliate of the EI

- The grab and manual sorting of mixed dry recyclables prior to transfer to recycling facilities
- The grab and manual sorting and bulk transfer of mixed municipal wastes

In 2009 waste and recyclables received was 42,536 tonnes, a reduction of 27% on the amount received in 2008 (58,202 tonnes).

Previously the main business focus was on the commercial sector and waste delivered to the site by Veolia Collection vehicles. However due to subsequent changes in market conditions and the identified need for further Recycling Centres/ Civic Amenity Sites detailed in the Regional Waste Management Plans (below), GES now propose to increase the recycling/recovery options to householders and smaller commercial businesses in the Limerick area. Future growth in the volumes of materials recovered/recycled includes increasing recycling options for the general public, such as the proposed CAA.

The only change to the current set-up is to use a section of the existing open yard as a CAA. It is not proposed to construct any new buildings, significantly change the existing site layout, infrastructure or drainage arrangements. The proposed CAA will be in the western part of the site, which is currently used for parking and the storage of empty skips and bins. It will comprise a range of skips and open and enclosed bins and containers for the different waste types and will not require the provision of any permanent structures. It will be supervised on a full time basis when open to ensure that unsuitable materials are not delivered. It is expected that up to 1500 tonnes of household and commercial waste will be accepted at the CAA annually.

Before describing the reasons for the changes to the Licence Conditions I would like to address the comments made by the OEE in their assessment that the proposed CAA cannot be accommodated by the current licence.

In relation to the OEE's opinion that the current Licence does not contain an enabling condition, the proposed CAA falls under Classes 2, 3, 4 and 13 of the Fourth Schedules of the Waste Management Acts 1996-2010 and Class 13 of the Third Schedule, all of which are authorised by the Licence. The CAA will accept household/commercial wastes from members of the public and small businesses. The wastes will comprise:

- Dry Recyclables(cardboard, papers, plastic, metals and glass)

- Bulky Items (beds, mattresses, cabinets etc)
- Garden waste (grass cuttings, hedge trimmings etc)
- Residual mixed waste (Black Bin)
- Construction & Demolition Waste

These waste types are included in those categorised in Schedule A of the Licence and are already accepted at the facility (Refer to Annual Environmental Report 2009).

As is the case with the wastes already accepted at the facility, the materials dropped off at the CAA will be subject to further treatment, either on or off-site. In the short term, the majority will be recycled with only a portion of the residual mixed waste having to be disposed of. It is envisaged that, as biological treatment technologies are rolled out in the medium term, all of the wastes accepted at the CAA will be recovered/recycled.

Regarding the OEE's opinion that the current Licence does not specifically cater for the provision of a dedicated CAA and such a facility was not included for in the original licence application, it is also the case that licence does not specifically exclude a CAA. The activities authorised under the Licence are specified in Part I Licensed Activities. The proposed CAA falls under Classes 2, 3, 4 and 13 of the Fourth Schedules of the Waste Management Acts 1996-2010 and Class 13 of the Third Schedule, all of which are authorised by the Licence.

Furthermore the Licence does not contain Conditions common to other licences that specifically prohibit the operation of a CAA (e.g. conditions relating to no casual public access; known customers only subject to initial waste profiling off-site, etc.).

The proposal is also consistent with the objectives of the facility's Environmental Management Plan, which is to continue to expand recycling capacity at the facility and has been approved by the Agency.

In relation to the OEE's query on how the proposed CAA fits in the relevant waste management plan, the proposal is based on the recognised need to provide a CAA in the western suburbs of Limerick City. The 3rd Annual Report on the Replacement Waste Management Plan for the Mid-West Region (November 2009), identifies the following:

- (p34)...”the Recycling Centres (RC)/Civic Amenity Sites (CAS) have greatly boosted the household recycling rate. The continued development of recycling centres is essential to meet the needs of the Replacement Waste Management Plan. A further 5 recycling centres are being considered for the region.”
- (p34) There is just one local authority Mini-Recycling Centre on the east of the City at Park Road. The Report identifies a continuing requirement for a Recycling Centre or Civic Amenity Site in Limerick City. The Plan has set a target date for its establishment as 2010. The local authorities have also recognised that the private sector may develop the centres in future.
- (p34) That the part of the City north of the Shannon and eastern Co Clare in general is also lacking one RC/CAS.
- (p34) The Report acknowledges that it is “unlikely that the Government or the Local Authorities will make further investment in new facilities during 2009 or early 2010 due to lack of resources.”

The Waste Management Plan clearly recognises the need to expand on the RC/CAS in Limerick City and environs. With the opening of the Shannon Tunnel, the GES facility is ideally located to also serve the City north of the River Shannon. In the current economic climate it is unlikely that the local authorities will in the short to medium term provide the required new RC/CAS. The proposed CAA is entirely consistent with the requirements of the Waste Management Plan

The OEE considers that the proposed CAA does not comply with Condition 4.2.1 of the current Licence and is not clear how it complies with Condition 3.10.1. In relation to the latter condition all surface water runoff from the proposed CAA is already collected and directed to existing silt traps and two Class 1 oil interceptors, which are regularly serviced and maintained. As run-off from the proposed location of the CAA already enters the facility’s drainage system, the CAA will not result in any new emission to surface waters. Therefore GES considers that the proposed CAA will comply with Condition 3.10.1.

Reasons for Proposed Changes

Condition 4.2.1 specifies that – *Waste arriving at the facility shall be weighed, documented and directed to the Waste Transfer Building. Each load of waste arriving at the Waste Transfer Building shall be inspected upon tipping within this building. Only after such inspections shall the waste be processed for disposal or recovery.*

GES seeks to amend the above condition to allow for the direction of waste to the CAA before being brought into the Waste Transfer building. As described above the CAA will be supervised on a full time basis when open to ensure that unsuitable materials are not delivered.

Details of any increase or changes in emissions resulting from the changes & assessment of the likely impacts of any increase/changes in emissions.

The CAA will not be the source of any new emissions from the facility. Surface water run-off has been discussed above. The only other potential emissions associated with the CAA are noise, traffic, dust and odours.

The noise surveys conducted in compliance with the Licence conditions have consistently identified traffic noise from the Dock Road itself as the predominant background noise. The CAA is in an area of the site used currently by Heavy Goods Vehicles/skip storage and, given the expected relatively small number of users (30 - 60/day), the change in noise and vehicle numbers will be imperceptible. Moreover, current movements at the site – 1124 in and out in May 2010 – are greatly reduced from the site's peak activity in early 2008 (e.g. 2091 movements in April 2008). In view of the almost 50% reduction in traffic accessing the facility, the operation of the CAA will have no added impact.

The waste types accepted at the CAA with the exception of C&D wastes, will not be a source of dust generation. The CAA will be supervised on a full time basis and if dust from the C&D storage skip is identified as a potential problem, the wastes in the skip will be dampened down. Vehicle movements on paved areas in dry weather are the only potential other source of dust emissions from facility activities.

At the end of each working day the 'Black Bin' receptacle will be brought into the Building and stored over night, as required by Condition 6.4.1 or emptied then and washed as required, returning empty to its position in the CAA.. This will ensure that the CAA is not a source of odours.

For the reasons outlined above GES now requests that Condition 4.2.1 be amended to allow for the provision of a Civic Amenity Area. If necessary, to facilitate an early determination by the Agency GES is available to meet at short notice to discuss the proposed amendments.

Yours sincerely,



Suzanne Byrne

Environmental Engineer

For and on *behalf* of Greenstar Environmental Services Ltd

Cc Mr Caoimhin Nolan Office of Environmental Enforcement, South West Region,
Environmental Protection Agency, Regional Inspectorate, Inniscarra, County Cork

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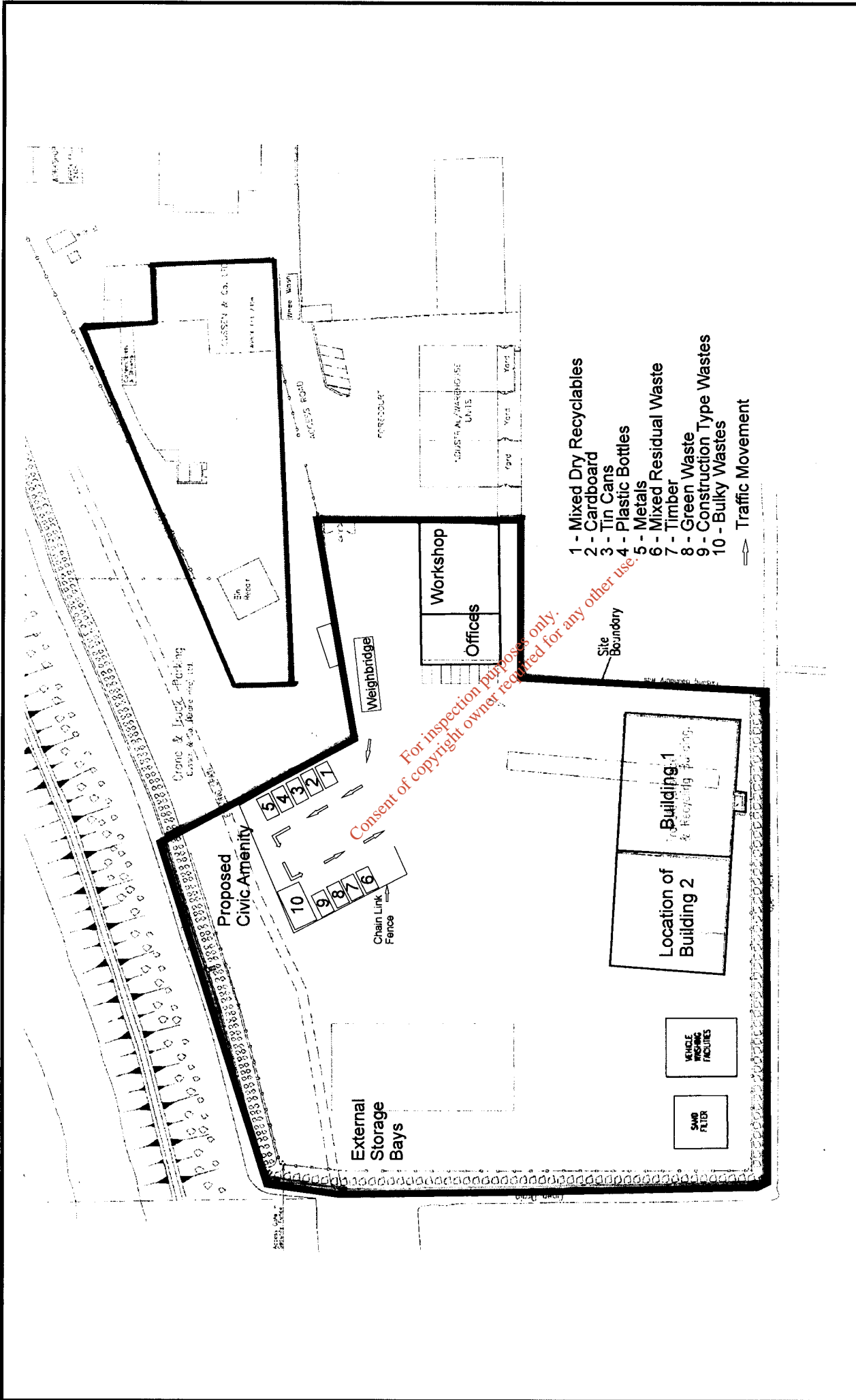



FIGURE NUMBER	1
Scale	Not To Scale
Revision	A

CLIENT
Greenstar Environmental Services Ltd

TITLE
Proposed Civic Amenity Location/Layout



O'Callaghan Moran & Associates.
 Granary House, Rutland Street,
 Cork Ireland.
 Tel. (021) 4321521 Fax. (021) 4321522
 email: info@callaghanmoran.com

This drawing is the property of O'Callaghan Moran & Associates and shall not be used, reproduced or disclosed to anyone without the prior written permission of O'Callaghan Moran & Associates and shall be returned upon request.

Ms Siobhan McDonnell,
Environmental Protection Agency,
Regional Inspectorate,
Inniscarra,
County Cork.

5th July, 2010

Re: Proposed Civic Amenity Area, Greenstar Environmental Services, Dock Road, Limerick (W0082-02)

Dear Ms McDonnell,

I refer to our meeting of the 28th May at the Regional Inspectorate offices in Inniscarra. As discussed, Greenstar Environmental Services (GES) seeks approval to open a civic amenity area (CAA) at the facility to serve members of the general public. The proposal is based on the recognised need to provide a CAA in the western suburbs of Limerick City. It is also consistent with the objectives of the facility's Environmental Management Plan, which is to continue to expand recycling capacity.

Waste Activity

The proposed CAA falls under Classes 2, 3, 4 and 13 of the Fourth Schedules of the Waste Management Acts 1996-2010 and Class 13 of the Third Schedule, all of which are authorised by the Licence.

Waste Types and Volumes

The CAA will accept household/commercial wastes from members of the public and small businesses. The wastes will comprise:

- Dry Recyclables (cardboard, papers, plastic, metals and glass)
- Bulky Items (beds, mattresses, cabinets etc)
- Garden waste (grass cuttings, hedge trimmings etc)
- Residual mixed waste (Black Bin)

- Construction & Demolition Waste

These waste types are categorised as Municipal Wastes, which is listed in Schedule A of the Licence and are already accepted at the facility (Refer to Annual Environmental Report 2009).

All of the wastes will be subject to further treatment either on or off-site and in the short term, the majority will be recycled with only a portion of the residual mixed waste having to be disposed of. It is envisaged that, as biological treatment technologies are rolled out in the medium term, that all of the wastes accepted at the CAA will be recovered/recycled.

The Licence allows GES to accept up to 90,000 tonnes of waste annually comprising Municipal, Commercial and Industrial and Construction and Demolition wastes. The quantities of the different waste types can be adjusted, subject to the approval of the Agency, as long as the overall annual quantity does not exceed 90,000 tonnes. In 2009, the facility accepted 42,536 tonnes. It is estimated that the CAA will accept up to 1 tonne/day (approximately 312 tonnes per annum) so there is no anticipated need to increase the waste acceptance limits.

CAA Layout & Operation

The location of the CAA is shown on the enclosed Figure 1. It will be sited in the northern part of the site away from the Main Building so as to ensure that the main site activities will not interfere with its safe operation. It will be in an area provided with paving and surrounded by a chain link fence. The CAA will form a designated and secure area which will be rendered impervious to the materials stored (Condition 4.3.4)

The customers will comprise members of the general public and small businesses who are exempt from having to have a Waste Collection Permit (Condition 4.2.3). Customers will park on the weighbridge, call the office on the weighbridge-mounted phone and confirm their details and have their weight recorded on the weighbridge system, as required by Condition 4.2.1.

The customers will then proceed off the weighbridge turning right to the CAA, where they will place the wastes into the appropriate receptacle. A range of different receptacles will be provided including closed bins/skips for the 'black bin' and dry recyclables, a RoRo for the bulky items and open bin/skip for the garden waste.

The CAA will be manned full time and any unsuitable materials will not be accepted. Any customer delivering unsuitable waste will be requested to remove such materials from the facility (Condition 4.2.2). After off-loading the wastes, the customers will return to the

weighbridge to receive their signed weighbridge docket and pay the fee. The weighbridge records will provide the information required under Condition 9.2.

Waste Handling

The CAA will only be used for materials storage. When full, the waste receptacles will be brought into the Main Building, off loaded and inspected again to ensure that there are no unsuitable materials (Condition 4.2.1). Then, depending on their type, the materials will be segregated and/or baled and moved to designated storage areas. At the end of each working day the 'Black Bin' receptacle will be brought into the Building and stored over night (Condition 6.4.1).

Emissions

The CAA will not be the source of any new sources of emissions from the facility. The only emissions associated with the CAA are noise and exhaust gases from the vehicles delivering the waste. The CAA is in an area of the site already used by Heavy Goods Vehicles and, given the relatively small number of users (30/day), the change in noise and exhaust gases will be imperceptible.

Yours Sincerely

Garrett Walsh

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Mr Garrett Walsh
Environmental Manager
Veolia Ireland Ltd
Ballykeefe Townland
Waste Management Section
Dock Road
Limerick



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23/06/2010

Our Ref: W0082-02 /GC08CN

Dear Mr Walsh

I refer to your letter dated 3rd June 2010, received by the Agency on the 10th June 2010, in relation to your request to install a Civic Amenity Area at your waste transfer station for members of the public and small businesses to deliver waste to your facility.

The Agency notes the following in relation to your proposal:

- The approval was not specifically sought for under any particular condition of Waste licence W0082-02 as an alteration to your activity/facility, as no such enabling condition exists in this particular waste licence.
- The current waste licence does not specifically cater for the provision of a dedicated civic waste facility for use by members of the public and small businesses, and the provision of same does not appear to have been included as part of the original licence application.
- It is unclear how the proposed civic waste facility fits in with the relevant waste management plan for the area.
- The proposed acceptance of waste at a civic waste facility in an area external to the waste transfer building does not comply with the requirements of Condition 4.2.1 of the licence.
- It is unclear how the proposed civic waste facility complies with the requirements of condition 3.10.2 of the licence.

In view of the above, the Agency considers that the proposed change cannot be accommodated under your licence.

A Technical Amendment (Section 42(B) (1) of the Waste Management Acts (WMA)) or a Review of your licence (Section 46(8) of the WMA) will be required to provide for the proposed change.

To determine if the proposed change can be accommodated by Technical Amendment you should submit the following information to the Agency's Environmental Licensing Programme (ELP), EPA, P.O. Box 3000, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford:

- Details of the requested change(s)

*noted.
Gadabo
25/06/10.*



- Reasons for the change(s) requested
- Details of any increase or changes in emissions resulting from the change(s)
- An assessment of the likely impacts of any increase/changes in emissions

If the alteration is considered to be a significant change and cannot be accommodated by a Technical Amendment, the ELP will notify you of the process for applying for a Review.

Please quote the above reference in any future correspondence in relation to this matter.

Yours sincerely



Mr. Caoimhín Nolan, Inspector
Office of Environmental Enforcement

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MEMO

TO: Mick Owens

FROM: Joe Reilly
Programme Officer
Environmental
Licensing Programme

CC: Office Correspondence File

DATE 11/08/10

SUBJECT : Greenstar Environmental Services, Reg No: W0082-02 request for
Technical amendment

Please find attached a copy of a request from Greenstar Environmental Services, for a technical amendment to their existing Waste Licence Reg No: W0082-02 granted on ~~1st August, 2010~~ 06/11/03

Please assess the contents of the request as to whether:

1. the change(s) can be carried out under a technical amendment of their existing licence;
2. the change(s) requires a review of the Waste licence under Section 46 of the Waste Management Acts 1996 to 2010, or
3. the change(s) cannot be incorporated into the existing licence either by a technical amendment or review and therefore should be refused.

If you have received the recommendation from the OEE Inspector ~~Col O'Seasain~~ *Sidhan McDonnell*, please attach/incorporate into your recommendation and forward to the Licensing Programme Manager for approval.

If the recommendation to technically amend the licence has been approved, please draft the Amendment.