

Hi Brian,

please find the response to the issues you raised through email on Thursday 3rd March 2011 with regard to the application for review of the licence W0011-02 as follows:

Item 1: 2009 Feasibility Study for Management and Remediation of the Avoca Mining Site

The Department of Communications and Natural Resources held a public meeting at the Woodenbridge House Hotel on Thursday 18th November 2010 to announce the commencement of the first phase of works for the remediation of the Avoca Mining Site. This meeting was well attended by local residents and interested agencies when €3million of funds were committed by the Department to commence these works.

Part of this first phase of works will facilitate and assist with the water treatment recommendations identified in the 2009 Feasibility Study Report you have referred to. A link to and a CD copy of this Feasibility Study report was submitted to the EPA by Wicklow County Council, in our response to the Further Information Request on 17th September 2010. As described in the Feasibility Study Report, it is proposed to divert the outfalls from the underground mines from both East Avoca and West Avoca for treatment at a water treatment facility in the mining area. From West Avoca, this will include the Ballymurtagh Adit which largely drains the underground mines of West Avoca that underlie the landfill site.

Item 2: Leachate Monitoring

The installation of leachate monitoring borehole, L10/01 was completed in July 2010. This borehole was advanced to the base of the landfill. Since July 2010 the level of leachate in the borehole has been monitored on a weekly basis and indicates an average level of about +71.5 mOD or an approximate depth of 13m below the top of the capped landfill. The highest recorded leachate level in that period was +71.76 and the lowest recorded level was +71.17 indicating the consistency of the level of leachate monitored in this borehole. Information pertaining to borehole, L10/01 was submitted to the EPA in the 3rd Quarterly Report for 2010 for Ballymurtagh Landfill.

An attempt to prove the base of the landfill at two other locations and install two additional leachate monitoring boreholes, L10/02 and L10/03 was terminated in October 2010 when it was not possible to advance these boreholes further due to obstructions. The location of these boreholes are within close proximity to previous leachate monitoring locations L03/1 and L03/4 respectively. Leachate level monitoring data for these boreholes is therefore unreliable and more indicative of leachate accumulation at the base of the boreholes at a level of approximately +77 mOD instead of the level of leachate within the body of the waste.

Prior to any landfill development works, the base of the landfill was at an elevation of about +70m OD as shown on copies of the plans of the original undeveloped landfill, already submitted to the EPA in the response by Wicklow County Council on 17th of September 2010.

The current monitoring data indicates that previously recorded high leachate levels were indicative of perched water/leachate and not the true level of leachate within the body of the landfill waste. Low volumes of leachate within the landfill have been expected since landfill capping works were substantially completed in 2005. These works effectively seal the surface of the landfill and the drainage network provided in the capping prevents surface water infiltration to the landfill.

Hope this information is helpful.

Breege Kilkenny
Senior Engineer
Wicklow County Council

*For inspection purposes only.
Consent of copyright owner required for any other use.*