



OFFICE OF CLIMATE,
LICENSING & RESOURCE
USE.

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

To:	Frank Clinton, Programme Manager, ELP		
From:	Yvonne English	Environmental Programme	Licensing
Date:	06 May 2011		
Re:	Application for a Waste Water Discharge Authorisation from Cork County Council, for the agglomeration named Clondrohid, Reg. No. A0463-01.		

Application Details	
Schedule of Discharge Authorised:	Discharges from agglomerations with a population equivalent less than 500
Certificate of Authorisation Application Received:	23 February 2011
Submission(s) Received:	No

This application relates to the Clondrohid agglomeration in County Cork. The agglomeration currently has a population equivalent (p.e.) of 250 (northern catchment 100 p.e. and the southern catchment 150 p.e.). The agglomeration is serviced by two waste water treatment plants (WWTP). The WWTPs provide primary treatment, consisting of a septic tank at each WWTP. The applicant has been unable to provide a design capacity for the WWTP as part of the certificate of authorisation application.

The WWTPs discharge to the Foherish river. Based on the nearest EPA water quality monitoring station, 2 km downstream, the biological Q-value is Q4-5 (sampled in 2008).

There is a drinking water abstraction point located within 10 km downstream of the discharge(s) from the agglomeration. The Recommended Certificate of Authorisation (RCoA) includes a condition whereby the Certificate of Authorisation holder shall immediately notify the group responsible for downstream abstraction points of any incidents in the agglomeration. The RCoA also specifies that the Authorisation holder shall prepare a risk assessment for the protection of downstream abstraction points within 12 months of the date of grant of the Certificate of Authorisation, the risk assessment shall address as a minimum the identification and minimisation of risks. The measures identified shall be implemented within twelve months thereafter.

There is a red dot site (based on the EPA Biological Quality Rating System, Q-value) downstream of the discharge(s) from the agglomeration. It is acknowledged that the discharge(s) from the agglomeration may not be the only cause of the red dot site. Based on the certificate of authorisation application submitted the current waste water treatment plants only provide primary treatment and the treatment capacity of the WWTPs is unknown. The RCoA states that within twelve months the authorisation holder shall identify appropriate improvements to the wastewater works, 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 agglomeration is discharging upstream of an area known for the presence of the pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*). The pearl mussel site is approximately 1.8km downstream. The RCoA states that the certificate of authorisation holder shall, within six months, carry out an ecological assessment of the impact of the discharge(s) from the waste water works on *Margaritifera margaritifera* (the freshwater pearl mussel) in consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). Having regard to the results of the assessment the certificate of authorisation holder, shall within six months thereafter, implement the recommendations in the assessment report.

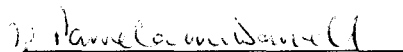
The certificate of authorisation applicant was required to complete a screening of the potential impact of the discharge(s) from the agglomeration on the designated European Site(s) downstream of the agglomeration. The certificate of authorisation applicant carried out a screening which identified that the discharge(s) was 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



Yvonne English

Inspector

Office of Climate, Licensing and Resource Use