



**OFFICE OF CLIMATE,
LICENSING & RESOURCE
USE.**

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

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| To: | Frank Clinton, Programme Manager, ELP | | |
| From: | Yvonne English | Environmental Programme | Licensing |
| Date: | 19 May 2011 | | |
| Re: | Application for a Waste Water Discharge Authorisation from Cork County Council, for the agglomeration named Knocknagree & Environs, Reg. No. A0344-01. | | |

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| Schedule of Discharge Authorised: | Discharges from agglomerations with a population equivalent less than 500 |
| Certificate of Authorisation Application Received: | 05 November 2010 |
| Submission(s) Received: | No |

This application relates to the Knocknagree & Environs agglomeration in County Cork. The agglomeration currently has a population equivalent (p.e.) of 400. The agglomeration is serviced by one waste water treatment plant (WWTP). The WWTP provides secondary treatment, consisting of an activated sludge process, phosphorous removal, and has a design capacity of 300 p.e.

The WWTP discharges to the Blackwater River. Based on the nearest EPA water quality monitoring station, 4 km downstream, the biological Q-value is Q4-5 (sampled in 2009).

The agglomeration is discharging upstream of an area known for the presence of the pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*). The pearl mussel site is approximately 4 km downstream. The Knocknagree WWTP has been identified by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) as having the potential to impact on the downstream pearl mussel. The Recommended Certificate of Authorisation (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.

Based on the certificate of authorisation application submitted the current waste water treatment plant for the agglomeration is overloaded. There is a salmonid water downstream of the discharge(s) from the agglomeration. There is also 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. 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 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

Yvonne English

Inspector

Office of Climate, Licensing and Resource Use