

Appendix 1

Scoping Letters Responses

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~~Hotel...~~
~~The Metropolitan Building,~~
~~James's Street,~~
~~Dublin 4, Co. Dublin,~~

25th November 2011

Re: Composting Facility for O'Toole Composting Ltd at Ballintrane, Fenagh, Co. Carlow.

Dear sir/madam,

Enviroguide Consulting have been commissioned by O'Toole Composting Ltd to prepare and submit an application for a Waste Licence and associated Environmental Impact Statement for their composting facility at Ballintrane, Fenagh, Co. Carlow, to the Environmental Protection Agency.

O'Toole Composting Ltd. currently operates a composting facility for up to 10,000 tonnes of biowaste at the site under Waste Permit number WFP-CW-10-0003-01 and a waste recovery operation for up to 50,000 tonnes of general waste under the same permit. It is proposed to increase the volume accepted to 90,000 tonnes with up to 70,000 tonnes of this for biological treatment. The facility operations will be designed to meet the Environmental Protection Agency's 'BAT Guidance notes for the Waste Sector: Treatment Activities'

Under Part 2 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 to 2011 'installation for the disposal of waste with an annual intake greater than 25,000 tonnes ...' requires the completion of an Environmental Impact Statement. In preparation of the EIS, due regard will be paid to the 'Advice Notes on Current Practice in the Preparation of Environmental Impact Statements' and 'Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Statements' issued by the Environmental Protection Agency and the requirements of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 to 2011. (SI No. 600 of 2001 as amended by SI No.262 of 2011)

Enviroguide Consulting would therefore be grateful if you could provide any information relevant to the proposed development that you may hold and/or highlight any issues that you feel should be addressed in the EIS. As you are the central office for your organisation, you may also wish to involve your regional or local office, if you deem it appropriate. For your information it is proposed to submit the waste licence application and supporting Environmental Impact Statement to the Environmental Protection Agency by end of December 2011.

Thanking you in anticipation of your co-operation in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Jim Dowdall

Enviroguide Consulting
On behalf of O'Toole Composting Ltd.

Jim Dowdall
Enviroguide Consulting
93 Upper George's Street
Dun Laoghaire
Co. Dublin

30 November 2011

Composting Facility for O'Toole Composting Ltd at Ballinatrane, Fenagh, Co. Carlow

Dear Mr. Dowdall,

Please note that the location of this proposed development is close to the River Burren which is an important salmon spawning tributary of the Barrow River. The Barrow River is an important Spring Salmon & sea trout fishery. The Barrow system supports several species listed in Annex II of the Directive including Salmon, River Lamprey, Brook Lamprey, Sea Lamprey, Freshwater Pearl Mussel and Otter. Much of the main channel of the Barrow River is a candidate Special Area for Conservation (SAC) under the European Habitats Directive.

We request details of the process employed at this facility, including the production of any waste/byproducts. Of specific concern is the production of significant volumes of waste/byproduct that is likely to be land spread. If this case arises the proposed methods of disposal for any waste products and spread lands, should be addressed fully in the context of this EIS.

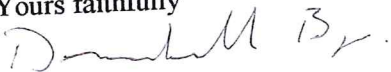
Our concerns include:

- (1) We note that the expansion of the compost production unit on site will mean that significantly greater quantities of organic material will be imported on to this site. It is imperative that adequately bunded and covered areas are provided for storage of organic material on-site prior to their use for compost production, and for the storage of compost and or other by-products prior to its removal off-site.
- (2) The compost production unit must be fully bunded with adequate storage for run-off during all weather conditions.
- (3) Fuels, oils, greases and hydraulic fluids must be stored in bunded compounds. Refuelling of machinery must be carried out in bunded areas.
- (4) All surface waters from the site and access road should be channelled through adequately sized petrol / oil interceptors and be subject to attenuation prior to discharge.
- (5) All existing storage tanks are checked to ensure that there are no losses to surface or groundwater
- (6) Systems should be put in place to ensure that there shall be no discharge of suspended solids or any other deleterious matter to watercourses during the construction phase and during any landscaping works.
- (7) All waste oil, empty oil containers and other hazardous wastes are disposed of in conjunction with the requirements of the Waste Management Act 1996.

- (8) The Waste Water Treatment System and percolation area should comply with the EPA's Waste Water Treatment Manual for small communities.
- (9) A maintenance contract should be entered into with the supplier of the Waste Water Treatment System

Inland Fisheries Ireland asks if a groundwater monitoring programme will be undertaken at sites up-gradient and down-gradient of this facility to assess the potential for groundwater pollution as part of the conditions of this licence.

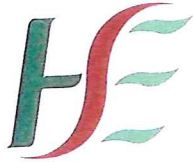
Yours faithfully



Donnachadh Byrne
Senior Fisheries Environmental Officer

Please note that any further correspondence regarding this matter should be addressed to Mr. Donnachadh Byrne, Senior Fisheries Environmental Officer, Inland Fisheries Ireland, Main Street, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.

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Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive
6th January 2012

Mr. Jim Dowdall
Enviroguide Consulting
93 Upper Georges Street
Dun Laoighre
Co. Dublin

HSE South,
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

11 Patrick Street,
Kilkenny,
Ireland.

Telephone 056 7784742
Fax 056 7762741

St. Dymphna's Hospital,
Athy Road,
Carlow,
Ireland.

Telephone 059 9136574
Fax 059 9136508

Re: Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for Waste Licence Application for O'Toole Composting Ltd., Ballinrane, Fenagh, Co. Carlow.

Dear Mr. Dowdall,

I refer to correspondence dated 25th November 2011 issued to Health Service Executive, Millenium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare seeking submissions or comments relating to the proposed development.

The matter has been forwarded to this office for appropriate action. I have visited the site in question and met with Patrick O'Toole, Composting Facility Manager. A tour of the facility was conducted and a review of relevant documentation was carried out. The objective of the Environmental Health Service in scoping this proposal is to identify key areas of concern from a public health viewpoint, so that concerns can be assessed and evaluated by the proposer at an appropriate level in the Environmental Impact Assessment. The concerns listed identify environmental health issues likely to arise from the proposed changes at the facility.

General

1. The E.I.S shall address the issue of undertaking and completing meaningful public consultation with the local community. Such consultation should give the local community an opportunity to comment on the proposal. It is necessary to ensure that formal structures are put in place to deal with queries and complaints from the general public.
2. The E.I.S shall indicate the consideration given to identifying alternatives to the continued use of the facility.
3. The E.I.S shall indicate proposed closure date of the facility.
4. A closure, restoration and after-care management plan shall be provided and addressed in E.I.S.
5. The E.I.S shall indicate and identify the presence and location of any private water supply sources which may be at risk from activities at the composting facility.
6. The potential for site run off impacting surface water and ground water shall be addressed in E.I.S.
7. The impact of dust generation should be assessed and a Dust Minimisation Plan or similar mitigation measure that meets current national standards should be addressed in E.I.S




8. E.I.S. should contain a Construction Management Plan for the proposed construction activities. Best practice measures and appropriate monitoring (where necessary) should be implemented.
9. Potential impacts of noise pollution (including vibration) from construction phase should be clearly identified in E.I.S. The identification of potential noise sensitive locations, predicted noise level exposure and duration is sought in order to protect the amenity of any noise sensitive locations.

Operational Phase

1. Existing on site traffic control measures should be addressed in E.I.S.
2. An Odour Management Plan should be provided in E.I.S. Comprehensive Odour Abatement and best practice techniques shall be implemented. A comprehensive "complaints" policy and procedure should be put in place and addressed in E.I.S.
3. On site arrangements for the storage of fuels, oils, lubricants and proposed mitigation measures in the event of accidental spillage shall be outlined in E.I.S.
4. Consideration should be given to assessing and updating pest control measures in E.I.S.
5. Current dust monitoring measures should be addressed in E.I.S.
6. Litter patrol procedures around the boundary of the site should be addressed by E.I.S.
7. General site management operations within the facility should be addressed by E.I.S.

If you have any queries with regard to this submission, please contact the undersigned at: 059-9136559.

Yours sincerely,



TRACEY MORRIS
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER

Agreed:



RICHARD McGRATH
A/PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER

Jim Dowdall

From: Jill Stewart [Jill.Stewart@failteireland.ie]
Sent: 30 November 2011 09:52
To: jdowdall@enviroguide.ie
Subject: Fáilte Ireland EIS Guidelines & Fáilte Ireland Address
Attachments: EIS and Tourism Guidelines 2011.doc

<<EIS and Tourism Guidelines 2011.doc>>

Dear Mr Dowdall,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your recent letter to Fáilte Ireland regarding the Environmental Impact Assessment for proposed facility at Ballintrane, Fenagh, Co Carlow.

I attach a copy of Fáilte Ireland Guidelines for the treatment of tourism in an EIS, which we recommend should be taken into account in preparing the EIS.

Please send all future correspondence for the attention of Mr Paddy Mathews at Fáilte Ireland, 88-95 Amiens Street, Dublin 1.

Yours sincerely,

Jill Stewart

Jill Stewart

Destinations Development

Fáilte Ireland

88-95 Amiens Street

Dublin 1

Tel: 01 8847202

Jill.Stewart@failteireland.ie

www.failteireland.ie

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Fáilte Ireland

National Tourism Development Authority

Guidelines on the treatment of tourism in an Environmental Impact Statement

1. Introduction

Tourism is a significant component of the Irish Economy – estimated to employ approximately 190,000 people – and contributing over €5.3 billion in spending to the economy in 2009. The environment is one of the main resources upon which this activity depends – so it is important that the EIS evaluates whether and how the interacting impacts of a project are likely to affect tourism resources.

The purpose of this short note is to provide guidance on how these impacts can be assessed through the existing EIA process. Undertaking an EIA is governed by the EIA Advice Notes published by the EPA. These Advice Notes contain detailed guidance on how to describe and evaluate the effects arising from a range of projects, including tourism projects.

These guidelines were written with the assistance of Conor Skehan, Head of Department of Environment and Planning, Dublin Institute of Technology.

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2. Tourism and the Environment

There are two interactions between tourism and the environment.

1. Impacts caused by Tourism Projects
2. Impacts affecting Tourism (e.g. the quality of a destination or a tourism activity)

Impacts caused by Tourism Projects

Tourism projects can give rise to effects on the environment. These are specifically dealt with under a number of Project Types in the Advice Notes, specifically:

12 TOURISM AND LEISURE

a. Ski-runs, ski-lifts and cable-cars where the length would exceed 500 metres and associated developments. Project Type 20

b. Sea water marinas where the number of berths would exceed 300 and fresh water marinas where the number of berths would exceed 100. Project Type 10

c. Holiday villages which would consist of more than 100 holiday homes outside built-up areas; hotel complexes outside built-up areas which would have an area of 20 hectares or more or an accommodation capacity exceeding 300 bedrooms. Project Type 28

d. Permanent camp sites and caravan sites where the number of pitches would be greater than 100. Project Type 28

e. Theme parks occupying an area greater than 5 hectares. Project Type 29

Figure 1 The Advice Notes contain detailed descriptions on how to describe and evaluate the effects arising from a range of tourism projects.

Impacts affecting Tourism

Environmental effects of other projects on tourism are not specifically addressed in the Advice Notes. Taking account of the significance of tourism to the Irish economy a specialist topic of 'Tourism' has been prepared to facilitate a systematic evaluation of effects on this sector within the format laid down for other parts of the Environmental Impact Statement.

It is not intended that the assessment of effects on tourism should become a separate section of the Impact Statement, instead it is intended to become a specialist sub-section of the topic 'Human Beings' which is currently described in Section 2 of the Advice Notes

3. Tourism in the Existing Environment

Introduction

Visitor attitude surveys reveal that the following factors – in order of priority – are the reasons that tourists visit and enjoy Ireland:

- Beautiful scenery
- Friendly & hospitable people
- Safe & Secure
- Easy, relaxed pace of life
- Unspoilt environment
- Nature, wildlife, flora
- Interesting history & culture
- Plenty of things to see and do
- Good range of natural attractions

It is noteworthy that over half of the factors listed are environmental and that all others are related to the way of life of the people. The following describes how these factors are considered within an EIS, set out under EIA topic headings, and how they interact with tourism.

Beautiful scenery

This is covered in the 'Landscape' Section. Particular attention needs to be paid to effects on views from existing purpose-built tourism facilities, especially hotels, as well as views from touring routes and walking trails. It is important to note that there appears to be evidence that the visitor's expectations of 'beautiful' scenery does not exclude an admiration of new modern developments – such as windfarms – which appear to be seen as indicative of an modern, informed and responsible attitude to the environment.

Friendly & hospitable people

This is not an environmental factor though it is indirectly covered under the 'Human Beings' section of the EIS. The principal factor is the ratio of visitors to residents. This is of less significance in areas with long-established patterns of tourism.

Safe & Secure

This is not an environmental issue – though some of the factors that are sometimes covered under the heading of 'Human Beings' – such as social inclusion or poverty – can point to likely effects and interactions.

Easy, relaxed pace of life

This is not an environmental issue though it is partially covered under 'Human Beings' – see comments above.

Unspoilt environment

This is covered under the sections dealing with 'Landscape', 'Flora' and 'Fauna' and to a lesser extent under emissions to 'Water' and 'Air'. In some instances traffic congestion, especially in rural areas, can be an issue, this is usually covered within 'Material Assets'.

Nature, wildlife, flora

This is principally covered under the headings of 'Flora' and 'Fauna' and to a lesser extent by 'Landscape', 'Water' and 'Air'. The principal issues being to avoid any effects that might reduce the health or extent of the habitats. This can occur either directly, by impinging on the site, or indirectly, through emission, that can affect the natural resources, like clean water, which the habitat depends on. It also considers effect on physical access to and visibility of these sites. Occasionally there are concerns about the disturbance or wear and tear of visitor numbers to such sites.

Interesting history & culture

This is principally covered under 'Cultural Heritage' and, to a lesser extent, under 'Human Beings'. The principal issues being to avoid damage to sites and structures of cultural, historical, archaeological or architectural significance – and to their contexts or settings. It also considers effect on physical access to and visibility of these sites. Occasionally there are concerns about the wear and tear of visitor numbers to such sites.

Plenty of things to see and do.

This is not an environmental issue, though it is partially covered by the 'Human Beings' section, where the tourism resources of an area are described and assessed.

Good range of natural attractions

This is covered by the 'Landscape', 'Flora', 'Fauna', and 'Cultural Heritage' sections of the EIS.

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4. Project factors affecting Tourism

Introduction

Tourism can be affected both by the structures or emissions of new developments as well as by interactions between new activities and tourism activities – for example the effects of high volumes of heavy goods vehicles passing through hitherto quiet, scenic, rural areas. Tourism can be affected by a number of the characteristics of the new project such as:

- New Developments
 - Social Considerations
 - Land-uses and Activities
-
- *New Developments* - will the development stimulate or suppress demand for additional tourism development in the area? If so, what type, how much and where? Marinas, golf courses, other major sporting facilities as well as theme parks and larger conference facilities can all stimulate the emergence of new accommodation, catering and leisure facilities often within an extensive area around a new primary visitor facility. Extensive urbanisation and large scale infrastructure as well as certain processing and extractive industries all have the potential to suppress demand for additional tourism – but usually only in the immediate locality of the new development. It should be noted however, that some types of new or improved large scale infrastructure – such as roads – can improve the visitor experience – by increasing safety and comfort or can convey a sense of environmental responsibility – such as wind turbines.
 - *Social Consideration* - will the development change patterns and types of activity and land use? Will it affect the demographics, economy or social dynamics of the locality?
 - *Land-use* - will there be severance, loss of rights of way or amenities, conflicts, or other changes likely to ultimately alter the character and use of the tourism resources in the surrounding area?

Existing Tourism

In the area likely to be affected by the proposed development, the following attributes of tourism, or the resources that sustain tourism, should be described under the following headings.

Note that the detailed description and analysis will usually be covered in the section dealing with the relevant environmental topic – such as '*Landscape*'. Only the relevant finding as to the likely significance to, or effect on, tourism needs to be summarised in this section.

Context

Indicate the location of sensitive neighbouring tourism resources that are likely to be directly affected, and other premises which although located elsewhere, may be the subject of secondary impacts such as alteration of traffic flows or increased urban development. The following should be noted in particular:

- Hotels, conference centres, holiday accommodation – including holiday villages, holiday homes, and caravan parks.
- Visitor centres, Interpretive centres and theme parks
- Golf courses, adventure sport centres and other visitor sporting facilities
- Marinas and boating facilities
- Angling facilities
- Equestrian facilities
- Tourism-related specialist retailers and visitor facilities
- Historic and Cultural Sites
- Pedestrian, cycling, equestrian, vehicular and coach touring routes

Indicate the numbers of premises and visitors likely to be directly affected directly and indirectly.

Identify and quantify, where possible, their potential receptors of impacts, noting in particular transient populations, such as drivers, walkers, seasonal and other non-resident groups.

Describe any significant trends evident in the overall growth or decline of these numbers, or of any changes in the proportion of one type of activity relative to any other.

Indicate any commercial tourism activity which likely to be directly affected, with resultant environmental impacts.

Character

Indicate the occupations, activities or interests of principal types of tourism in the area. – Where relevant, describe the specific environmental resources or attributes in the existing environment which each group uses or values; where relevant, indicate the time, duration or seasonality of any of those activities. For example describe the number of guides, boats and anglers who use a salmon fishery and the duration of the salmon season as well as the quantity and type of local accommodation that is believed to be used by the anglers.

Significance

Indicate the significance of the principal tourism assets or activities likely to be affected. Refer to any existing formal or published designation or recognition of such significance. Where possible provide an estimate of the contribution of such tourism activities to the local economy. For instance refer to the number of annual visitors to a tourism attraction or to the grading of a hotel.

Sensitivity

Describe any significant concerns, fears or opposition to the development known to exist among tourism interests. Identify, where possible, the particular aspect of the development which is of concern, together with the part of the existing tourism resource which may be threatened. For instance describe the extent of a potential visual intrusion onto a site of historic significance which is the main local tourist attraction.

5. Impacts on Tourism

"Do Nothing" Impact;

Describe how trends evident in the existing environment will continue and how these trends will affect tourism.

Predicted impact;

- Describe the location, type, significance, magnitude/extent of the tourism activities or assets that are likely to be affected.
- Describe how the new development will affect the balance between long-established and new dwellers in an area and its affect on the cultural or linguistic distinctiveness of an area. For example describe the effect of a new multi-national population required for an international call-centre located in a Gaeltacht area.
- Describe how changes in patterns of employment, land use and economic activity arising from the proposed development will affect tourism, for example, illustrating how a new industrial development will diversify local employment opportunities thereby reducing the area's unsustainable over-reliance on seasonal tourism.
- Describe the consequences of change, referring to indirect, secondary and cumulative impacts on tourism; Examples can include describing how the new development may lead to a reduced assimilative capacity for traffic or water during the peak of the tourism season or how new urbanism combined with existing patterns of tourism may lead to unsustainable levels of pedestrian traffic through a sensitive habitat.
- Describe the potential for interaction between changes induced in tourism and other uses that may affect the environment – for instance increasing new tourism-related housing affecting water resources or structures
- Describe the worst case for tourism if all mitigation measures fail.

6. Mitigating adverse impact on Tourism

Describe the mitigation measures proposed to:

- *avoid* sensitive tourism resources – such as views, access, and amenity areas including habitats as well as historical or cultural sites and structures.
- *reduce* the exposure of sensitive resources to excessive environmental burdens arising from the development's emissions or volumes of traffic [pedestrian and vehicular], and/or losses of amenity arising from visually conspicuous elements of the development – for example by prioritizing visual screening of views from a hotel towards a quarry.
- *reduce* the adverse effects to tourism land uses and patterns of activities – especially through interactions arising from significant changes in the intensity of use or contrasts of character or appearance – for example by separating traffic routes for industrial and tourism traffic.
- *remedy* any unavoidable significant residual adverse effects on tourism resources or activities, for example by providing alternative access to tourism amenities – such as waterways or monuments.

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Harcourt Lane, Dublin 2

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email: info@nationaltransport.ie

web: www.nationaltransport.ie

**Mr Jim Dowdall,
EnviroGuide Consulting,
93 Upper George's Street,
Dun Laoghaire,
Co Dublin.**

19th December 2011

Re: Composting Facility for O'Toole Composting Ltd at Ballinrane, Fenagh, Co. Carlow

Mr Dowdall,

In response to your letter of the 25th November 2011, the National Transport Authority will not be submitting any information on the proposed composting facility at Ballinrane, Fenagh, Co. Carlow.

Yours sincerely,

Hugh Creegan

Director of Transport Planning and Investment

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Irish Aviation Authority
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6th December 2011

Jim Dowdall
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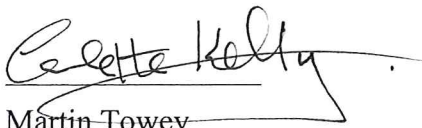
Re: Composting Facility for O'Toole Composting Ltd at Ballinrane, Fenagh, Co. Carlow.

Dear Sir

I refer to the request for permission for the above development, details of which were received by the Irish Aviation Authority.

I wish to advise that we have no observations on this proposed development.

Yours sincerely

P.P.


Martin Towey
Corporate Affairs

Bord Stiúirthóirí / Board of Directors

Anne Nolan (Cathaoirleach / Chairman), Eamonn Brennan
(Príomhfheidhmeannach / Chief Executive) Lorraine Burke,
Pat Dalton, Peter G Ledbetter, Rosheen McGuckian,
Michael Norton, Geoffery O'Byrne White, Claire O'Donoghue

Oifig Chláraithe:

Foirgneamh na hAmanna, 11-12 Sráid D'Olier
Baile Átha Cliath 2, Éire
Uimhir Chláraithe: 211082. Áit Chláraithe: Éire
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Dáta | Date 10th January 2012

Ár dTag | Our Ref. NRA 11-83931

Bhur dTag. | Your Ref.

Re: EIS Scoping for proposed Intensification of Waste Intake at O'Toole Composting Ltd., Ballinrane, Fenagh, Co. Carlow

Dear Mr. Dowdall,

The Authority wishes to advise that it is not in a position to engage directly with planning applicants in respect to proposed developments. The Authority will endeavour to consider and respond to planning applications referred to it given its status and duties as a statutory consultee under the Planning Acts. The approach to be adopted by the Authority in making such submissions or comments will seek to uphold official policy and guidelines as outlined in NRA Circular 6/2006 "Policy Statement on Development Management and Access to National Roads" and other relevant circulars, which are available at www.nra.ie. Regard should also be had to the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government *Spatial Planning and National Roads (Consultation Draft) Guidelines for Planning Authorities*.

The issuing of this correspondence is provided as best practice guidance only and does not prejudice the NRA's statutory right to make any observations, requests for further information, objections or appeals following the examination of any valid planning application referred.

The applicants for any subsequent planning application will be aware that section 1.2 of the Development Management Guidelines (DoEHLG. 2007) outlines that pending the preparation of Departmental Guidelines concerning policy on development and national roads, relevant policy is as set out in the National Roads Authority's Circular Letter 7/2004.

Circular 7/2004 outlines that developments concerning extensions to commercial or industrial development outside the 30/40 m.p.h. (equivalent to 50 – 60km/h) (as applicable) speed limits on national roads should, inter alia, be subject to the requirement that no additional traffic would be generated by the development concerned or increased road safety hazard created.

In addition, the Spatial Planning and National Roads (Draft) Guidelines for Planning Authorities advise that development plans should make it clear that the policy of the planning authority will be to avoid the creation of additional access points from new development or the generation of increased traffic from existing accesses to national roads to which speed limits greater than 50 kph apply.

The Authority reserves the right to submit observations in relation to any detailed application referred by Carlow County Council or An Bord Pleanála in this regard and the following merely details recommendations in relation to an EIS Scoping request.

With respect to EIS scoping issues, the recommendations indicated below provide only general guidance for the preparation of EIS, which may affect the National Roads Network.

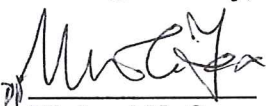
The developer should have regard, *inter alia*, to the following;

- Consultations should be had with the relevant Local Authority/National Roads Design Office with regard to locations of existing and future national road schemes.
- The Authority would be specifically concerned as to potential significant impacts the development would have on any national roads in the proximity of the proposed development, N80;
- The developer should assess visual impacts from existing national roads;
- The developer should have regard to any Environmental Impact Statement and all conditions and/or modifications imposed by An Bord Pleanála regarding road schemes in the area. The developer should in particular have regard to any potential cumulative impacts;
- The developer, in conducting Environmental Impact Assessment, should have regard to the NRA DMRB and the NRA Manual of Contract Documents for Road Works;
- The developer, in conducting Environmental Impact Assessment, should have regard to the NRA's Environmental Assessment and Construction Guidelines, including the *Guidelines for the Treatment of Air Quality During the Planning and Construction of National Road Schemes* (National Roads Authority, 2006);
- The EIS should consider the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006 (SI 140 of 2006) and, in particular, how the development will affect future action plans by the relevant competent authority. The developer may need to consider the incorporation of noise barriers to reduce noise impacts (see *Guidelines for the Treatment of Noise and Vibration in National Road Schemes* (1st Rev., National Roads Authority, 2004));
- It would be important that, where appropriate, subject to meeting the appropriate thresholds and criteria or in accordance with best practice, a Traffic and Transport Assessment be carried out in accordance with relevant guidelines and best practice, noting traffic volumes attending the site and traffic routes to/from the site with reference to impacts on the national road network and associated junctions. As indicated above, the Authority is not in a position to engage directly with applicants in respect to proposed developments, however, it is advised that the Authority's Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines (2007) should be referred to in this regard. It is important that TTA would consider the cumulative impact of developments in the area and in addition, the applicant team should also consider Table 2.3 of the Guidelines which advise on circumstances where sub-threshold TTA may be warranted;
- The designers are asked to consult the National Roads Authority's DMRB *Road Safety Audit* (NRA HD 19/09) to determine whether a Road Safety Audit is required.

Notwithstanding, any of the above, the developer should be aware that this list is non-exhaustive, thus site and development specific issues should be addressed in accordance with best practise.

I hope that the above comments are of use in your scoping process.

Yours sincerely,



Michael McCormack
Policy Adviser (Planning)

Our Ref: PL 01.204497
P.A. Ref: 03/314

Jim Dowdall,
EnviroGuide Consulting,
93 Upper George's Street,
Dún Laoghaire,
Co. Dublin.

6th December, 2011.


Appeal: Construction of an in-vessel tunnel composting facility, weighbridge, offices, site entrance, all site development infrastructure works, ancillary services and associated site works at Ballinrane, Fenagh, County Carlow.

Dear Mr. Dowdall,

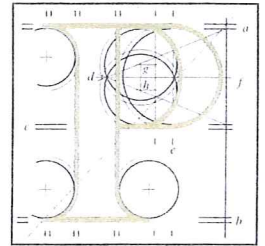
I have been asked by An Bord Pleanála to acknowledge receipt of your letter on the 30th November, 2011.

A further reply will issue as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,


Erica Kearns
Administrative Assistant.

An Bord Pleanála



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64 Sráid Maoilbhríde,
Baile Átha Cliath 1.

Tel: (01) 858 8100
LoCall: 1890 275 175
Fax: (01) 872 2684
Web: <http://www.pleanala.ie>
email: bord@pleanala.ie

64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1.

J:/abp/trk/000/204497

Our Ref: PL 01.204497
P.A. Ref: 03/314

Jim Dowdall,
EnviroGuide Consulting,
93 Upper George's Street,
Dún Laoghaire,
Co. Dublin.

13th December, 2011.

Appeal: Construction of an in-vessel tunnel composting facility, weighbridge, offices, site entrance, all site development infrastructure works, ancillary services and associated site works at Ballintrane, Fenagh, County Carlow.

Dear Mr. Dowdall,

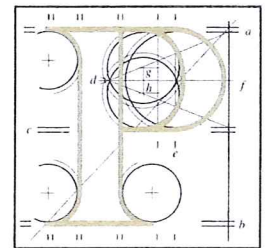
I have been asked by An Bord Pleanála to refer further to your letter dated the 25th November, 2011.

In response to your query regarding involvement of our regional or local offices, and in order to clarify the matter, please be advised that the planning system includes a comprehensive appeals process whereby all planning decisions made by planning authorities may be subject to *independent* review by An Bord Pleanála. It is not the case that An Bord Pleanála is a central office, with the various planning authorities being its regional or local offices, but rather that An Bord Pleanála is completely independent of the planning authorities, as is necessary in order to fulfil its main function in reviewing decisions of the aforementioned authorities, where a valid appeal has been lodged.

With regard to the issues to be addressed in the preparation of an environmental impact statement, in this instance it appears that either the Environmental Protection Agency or Carlow County Council or both will be the initial consenting authorities, and I would suggest that you contact their offices with any queries you may have in relation to same. It would be both inappropriate and beyond its remit for An Bord Pleanála, as the body charged with reviewing planning authority decisions that are appealed, to become involved in the process prior to any planning authority decision, should that be the position in relation to you query.

J:/abp/trk/000/204497

An Bord Pleanála



Quality through Accessibility

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In relation to any information relevant to the proposed development that An Bord Pleanála may hold, as you may be aware, the site at Ballintrane had previously been the subject of an appeal [PL01.204497] regarding planning register reference number 03/314. This appeal was decided on the 9th Day of March, 2004, and the file is available to view through our Public Access section should you so wish. Copies of any documentation you may require are also available, though there would be an associated administrative charge. Public Access queries can be sent to publicaccess@pleanala.ie or they can be contacted by telephone on (01) 8737104.

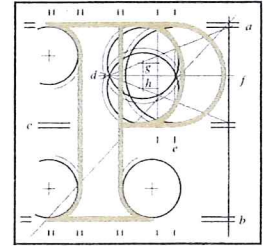
I hope this has been of some assistance to you,

Yours sincerely,


Justin Keane
Executive Officer.

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An Bord Pleanála



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64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1.

Jim Dowdall

From: info@enviroguide.ie
Sent: 06 December 2011 08:51
To: Jim Dowdall
Subject: Fw: Composting Facility for O'Toole Composting Ltd @ Ballinrane, Fenagh, Co. Carlow
Attachments: OToole Composting.pdf

From: Stone, Joan
Sent: Monday, December 05, 2011 11:16 AM
To: <mailto:info@enviroguide.ie>
Subject: Composting Facility for O'Toole Composting Ltd @ Ballinrane, Fenagh, Co. Carlow

I wish to acknowledge the receipt of your recent correspondence with this Department concerning the above proposal. The proposal is now being appraised. I will be in contact with you again when this process has been completed.

Kind Regards

Joan
Joan Stone
Climate Change Section
Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine
Johnstown Castle Estate
Wexford
Tel: 053 91 70348 **Fax:** 053 91 43950

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Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine

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An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara

Tá an t-eolas san ríomhphost seo, agus in aon ceanglaín leis, faoi phribhléid agus faoi rún agus le h-aghaidh an seolai amháin. D'fhéadfadh ábhar an seoladh seo bheith faoi phribhléid profisiúnta nó dlíthiúil. Mura tusa an seolai a bhí beartaith leis an ríomhphost seo a fháil, tá cosc air, nó aon chuid de, a úsáid, a chóipeál, nó a scaoileadh. Má tháinig sé chugat de bharr dearmad, téigh i dteagmháil leis an seoltóir agus scríos an t-ábhar ó do ríomhaire le do thoil.

Gillian Free

Environmental Consultant



93 Upper Georges Street | Dun Laoghaire | County
Dublin

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21st December, 2011

Mr. Jim Dowdall
Enviroguide Consulting
93 Upr. Georges Street
Dun Laoghaire
Co. Dublin

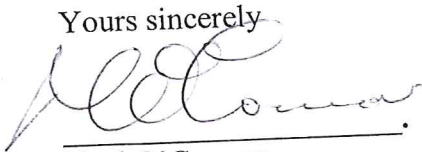
Re: Composting Facility for O'Toole Composting Ltd at Ballintrane, Fenagh, Co. Carlow

Dear Mr. Dowdall,

I refer to your recent correspondence concerning the above.

At this time, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine has no obs/comments to make in regard to the application for a waste licence to the EPA.

Yours sincerely



Noel O'Connor
Climate Change Section

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