

Sonja Smith

Subject: FW: WWDL: Items for clarification

From: Eleanor Roche
Sent: 28 October 2014 09:08
To: Karen Creed; Breen Higgins
Cc: Tom Stafford
Subject: WWDL: Items for clarification

Karen/Breen,

Following on from our discussions at the last Licensing progress meeting, please see below information.

Newport, Mayo

In relation to the Newport waste water treatment works, Co. Mayo please note that the current treatment system consists of a collection network, 2 X pumping stations, 2 x septic tanks and 2 outfalls. A Foreshore Licence issued in 1965 and it is thought that this system was constructed in a similar timeframe by the Local Authority. This development was not subject to the Planning and Development Act 2000.

It is currently proposed to Licence the Newport agglomeration with such treatment works in place.

Planning Consent was sought from An Bord Pleanála (Ref. PL16.YA0001) in May 2007 for a new waste water treatment plant and a shared marine outfall pipeline with the proposed Sludge Hub Centre and Leachate Treatment Facility at Derrinnumera. The proposal included an upgrade of the collection network and a storm water overflow pipeline to the sea, however it was refused by An Bord Pleanála on the 17th September 2008 for the following reasons:

- *"The Board is not satisfied that the proposed outfall location for the effluent discharge, at a narrow point in the Burrishoole Channel, is the optimum outfall location, having regard to the channel characteristics and nature of the tidal flows in the area, the sensitivity of the receiving waters, and the proximity to Lough Furnace a candidate Special Area of Conservation and an important centre for salmon research*
- *The Board is not satisfied that the proposed development would not pose an unacceptable risk of adverse impact on habitats and of environmental pollution and therefore the proposed development would be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area."*

The Board further considered that:

"the selection of the optimum outfall location for the Newport Wastewater Treatment Plant only would be more appropriately re-assessed in the context of a new application for planning approval."

In addition to the above, the proposed Sludge Hub Centre and Leachate Treatment Facility at Derrinnumera was the subject of a separate planning application (Ref. 16.JA0002), which was also refused by An Bord Pleanála on the 17th September 2008.

Irish Water has since undertaken a review of the proposal and existing environmental conditions and it is Irish Waters view that the existing preliminary treatment system is considered appropriate given (i) the population equivalent of the Newport agglomeration is less than 2,000 (it is currently estimated to be 680P.E and increasing to 685P.E in 2020) and

(ii) both outfall pipes have been discharging to transitional waters (Newport Bay) for numerous years without hindering the ability of the receiving waters to meet the relevant quality objectives for such waters (the overall objective of the water body is to achieve 'Good' Status by 2015).

Publications and documentation such as the EPA maps (WFD Status 2007-2009) which classified the receiving water of Newport Bay as being one of 'high' physio-chemical status and the 2013 EPA report entitled '*Integrated Water Quality Report 2012*' which classifies these waters as being 'unpolluted' in 2012, supports this view. Irish Water therefore, in accordance with Article 7 and Article 2(9) of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC) considers the existing level of treatment at Newport to be appropriate and is seeking a licence for such.

It should be noted that upgrade works do not form part of Irish Water's 2014-2016 Capital Investment Programme.

As it no longer proposed to carry out upgrade works, it is proposed to seek authorisation for the existing discharge. The existing treatment works were not subject to approval in accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2000 or the European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 1989 to 2001, therefore an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

Ballinagh, Cavan

In relation to clarifying the estimated Agglomeration P.E, there is no flow meter on site for the Ballinagh WWTP and there is no data for influent BOD (or any influent sampling) therefore Irish Waters agglomeration estimate of 851 p.e (2014) and 865P.E (2012) based on 2011 CSO population data, ERSI growth factors and a 10% non-domestic factor is considered our best estimate using the best available data.

Gurteen, Sligo

The Agglomeration P.E for Gurteen is estimated to be 500P.E even if Industrial wastewater from Green Isle Foods is taken into consideration (addition 75P.E). However it is Irish Waters position that the inclusion of unmixed Industrial waste waters to the discharge pipe downgradient of the WWTP should not be considered when calculating the Agglomeration P.E. A response to the RFI will be uploaded in the coming days.

Castlebridge, Wexford and similar

It has been confirmed that waste water from the Castlebridge agglomeration along with the Piercetown agglomeration and the Taghmon agglomeration is now collected and treated at the Wexford WWTP. Therefore IW wish to request the Castlebridge WWDL Application be withdrawn and will submit unsolicited information to this effect. It is noted that the Wexford WWDL will need to be regularised to allow for the acceptance of wastewater from the above 3 additional agglomerations.

In addition to this we have carried out a review to identify other locations where similar practices may have or are intended to take place. Courtmacsherry will require regularisation to accommodate the treatment and discharge of wastewater from neighbouring Timoleague agglomeration.

No.	Agglomeration Name	Region	WWDL ref no.	Application/ Licensed	Is wastew. now/inter an alterna
1	Timoleague	South	D0466-01	Application	Yes
2.a	Castlebridge	South	D0235-01	Application	Yes

2.b	Piercetown	South	D0406-01	Licensed	Yes
2.c	Taghmon	South	D0389-01	Licensed	Yes

Best Regards,
Eleanor.

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