

Attachment A

Non-Technical Summary

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

Non-Technical Summary

This is a summary of the information within the Environmental Impact Statement which reports the findings of the assessment into the environmental effects associated with the Poultry Unit at Rathcahill, Templeglantine, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.

This document has been prepared on behalf of Mr. Michael Noel O' Connor, by NERGE Ltd. in support of an Industrial Emissions Activities Licence for a Poultry Unit at Rathcahill West, Templeglantine, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.

The associated Environmental Impact Statement accompanies this application for an Industrial Emissions Activities Licence, as does related planning permission documents.

Class of activity in the First Schedule of the EPA Act 1992 as amended

Class	Description
6.	Intensive Agriculture
6.1	The rearing of poultry in installations where the capacity exceeds 40,000 places.

Location

The site of the Poultry Unit is located approximately 9km South West of Newcastle West and 1km from the village of Templeglantine, which is to the North East of the Unit.

The total area of the site is 1.5 Hectares. The poultry unit as per Planning Ref 13366/12283 is approximately 50m North from the existing 2no poultry houses (20,000 birds each).

The current capacity of the existing farm is 40,000. The new house has a capacity for 34,000 birds; totally 74,000.

Chronology of Planning

A search of the Planning Register shows that there are a number of planning permissions and applications on the holding.

Planning or Appeal Reference Number	Planning Authority/An Bord Pleanala	Date of Planning Decision (Final)	Brief description
1042	Limerick County Council	09/12/2010	The construction of two poultry houses, entrance and all associated site works
11457	Limerick County Council	18/07/2011	construction of two poultry houses (20,000 birds each) and entrance from public road
12283	Limerick County Council	15/08/2012	the construction of a broiler unit (an Environmental Impact Statement has been submitted as part of this application)
13366	Limerick County Council	13/08/2013	amendments to condition no. 17 of planning reference no. 12/283 to include installation of a low pressure ventilation system

Facilities

The buildings and its layout will be state of the art for the industry. A thorough review was undertaken of the best available techniques to minimise emissions from the unit and to maximise welfare conditions for animals and staff alike on-site. All facilities on-site are compliant with Best Available Techniques. Structures are illustrated in the site's Structures Table.

Drainage

All storm water from the yard will be diverted via a clean water drainage system to a single storm water monitoring point indicated as SW1 on the Site Layout Plan which discharges to a small drainage ditch. This monitoring point will be inspected weekly and sampled quarterly for COD at an Independent Laboratory.

Employment

This Unit employs 1 person directly with indirect employment in the associated areas of transport, feed, and hatchery.

Storage Tanks

On site there are currently 2 no 37.6 m³ precise underground effluent tanks which holds all washings from the poultry houses and soiled water from the yards. This tank's construction

conforms to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine's specification S123 Minimum Specification for Bovine Livestock Units and Reinforced Tanks - March 2006.

Poultry Litter

The poultry litter from this unit is supplied to Custom Compost of Ballyminaun Hill, Gorey, Co. Wexford for use in the production of mushroom compost. The litter is removed off site on the same day as the shed cleaning is carried out.

Soiled water

Soiled water arising from the washing down of the accommodation houses is utilised on the applicant's land adjacent to the unit and amounts to approximately 5 vacuum tanks a year. The application of the soiled water is regulated under the EU (Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Waters) 2014 S.I. 31 of 2014.

Feed Silo

Feed silos, approximately 7.6 m high, 3.0 m diameter are installed adjacent to the accommodation houses.

Water Supply

The main source of water to the Poultry is from an on site well. Backup supply is obtained from the main system.

Heating

Gas heating is installed in all poultry houses.

Feeding/Drinking Apparatus

An auger style feeding system is installed in each unit which has a low pan for easy access and low flow nipple-type drinkers with a drip cup to reduce spillages to the floor.

Storm/clean surface water

All clean surface water collected will be discharged to an adjacent drainage ditch identified as SW1 on the Site Layout Plan. Roof water is collected via galvanised gutters and downpipes and diverted to this drainage ditch also.

Traffic

The poultry unit is serviced by a local unnamed road, 1km from the village of Templeglantine. The Unit's entrance joins this road on a straight stretch giving maximum visibility for traffic. The increase in the use of raw materials associated with the increase in poultry growing operation will not lead to a significant increase in traffic movements. Therefore, there will be no impact on the existing road network.

Noise & Odour

This Poultry operation has no significant effect on noise or odour. To date there has been no direct noise or odour related complaints made to the existing Poultry Unit.

Flora and Fauna

Qualitative baseline studies of the site have been carried out by Montgomery E.H.S. in 2012. During this site visit, detailed and comprehensive accounts of the floral and faunal composition encountered were recorded.

The principal habitats present within the site were identified and classified using the Heritage Council's 'A Guide to Habitats in Ireland' (Fossitt 2000). The dominant species were recorded and a species list compiled which is detailed in the associated Environmental Impact Statement.

Waste Management

Michael Noel O' Connor has existing procedures in place with regards to waste management, in accordance with Part III of the Waste Management Acts 1996, as amended. These are outlined in the Waste Management Plan prepared by NRGE Ltd.

Archaeological Features

An assessment of Archaeological Features in the vicinity of this Poultry Unit has been carried out by Mountgomery EHS of Newcastle West, details of which are within the accompanying Environmental Impact Statement. It is considered unlikely that there are any unknown archaeological remains or features in the vicinity of the Poultry Unit; or that the unit will impact, either physically or visually on the archaeological heritage of this area.

Heritage Areas

The Poultry unit does not impinge on any Heritage areas.

Cultural Heritage and Material Assets

Farming traditions in the area have been stock rearing and milk production. Overall, the expansion of the poultry operation has a minor impact on the cultural heritage and other resources.

Climate

There will be no direct impacts predicted on the climate as a result of operations at the Unit.

Population

The new Poultry House (Planning Ref: 13366/12283) has a positive impact on human beings from the increased employment (direct and indirect), it will create.

The Poultry Unit is located in an agricultural area: the buildings blend in to the surrounding area. Also, the unit is landscaped with a screening of trees and shrubs, thus there will be no nuisance or loss of amenity.

Effects of the development on air are insignificant outside the buildings and adjoining yards. The low pressure ventilation system will ensure that any foul air is dispelled high into the atmosphere where it can mix with fresher air and thus minimise odour.

Noise levels from the unit are unlikely to be a nuisance. The main sources of noise are from the general farm operations at the site including site traffic, delivery of feed and collection of birds and litter. In addition, operations on site include feeding times, water systems and ventilation systems. However, at a distance of 100 metres from the development noise levels are not greatly above ambient background noise levels.

The development will have an insignificant effect on the climate of the area.

Thus the measures that have been put in place will ensure that impact/effects of noise, air, climate and traffic on human being will be minimised.

Monitoring and Register

Proposals for monitoring storm water emissions at the site and noise monitoring locations carried out during the baseline survey are set down in the Environmental Report. There are no proposed monitoring measures for dust or odour at the unit. However, if any complaints are received, a follow up investigation will be initiated.

An Annual Environmental Report will be submitted annually to the Environmental Protection Agency, in accordance with the requirements of an Industrial Emissions Licence. .

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