



**OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY**

ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSING PROGRAMME

TO:	Director	
FROM:	Caitriona Collins	Environmental Licensing Programme
DATE:	16 December 2016	
RE:	Technical Amendment request to Industrial Emissions Licence Register Number: W0146-02, held by Knockharley Landfill Limited, Knockharley, Navan, Co. Meath.	

The Agency received a request on 14th September 2016 from Knockharley Landfill Limited, Licence Reg. No. W0146-02, to technically amend their licence. The request relates to approval to allow an incinerator bottom ash processing and materials recovery trial at Knockharley Landfill.

This memo recommends that the change should not be accommodated by a Technical Amendment, for the reasons set out in the Assessment below.

1. Background

Knockharley Landfill Limited is authorised for the operation of a non-hazardous landfill and the facility was first authorised by waste licence in March 2003. Changes to the licence since that time can be summarised as follows:

March 2010	Review of waste licence
January 2013	Technical Amendment A (Groundwater Regulations)
October 2013	Technical Amendment B (Incinerator Bottom Ash recovery trial)
December 2013	Industrial Emissions Directive amendment
March 2014	Licence Transfer from Greenstar Holdings Ltd. to Knockharley Landfill Limited
November 2016	Technical Amendment C (increase in maximum annual intake of waste for the period to 31 December 2016)

Up to 200,000 tonnes per annum of waste can be accepted at the installation including up to 25,000 tonnes of construction and demolition waste for recovery.

2. Technical Amendment request

On the 14th September 2016, the Agency received a request for a Technical Amendment of IE licence W0146-02, in order to allow for approval to process up to 30,000 tonnes of incinerator bottom ash (IBA) over a period of 6 months at the installation. The licensee is

requesting the amendment to provide for an IBA processing and materials recovery trial to take place. The licensee has stated that the IBA will be sourced from the Dublin Waste to Energy installation at Poolbeg (Reg No. W0232-01), in partial fulfilment of condition 7.5(b) of that licence (Reg No. W0232-01):

“The licensee shall identify opportunities for: the recovery/recycling of residues”.

Technical Amendment B of the Knockharley Landfill licence which was introduced in October 2013 provided for such a trial to take place at Knockharley Landfill as follows:

Condition 5.16.4 A maximum of 4,000 tonnes of incinerator bottom ash shall be processed in the trial.

Condition 5.16.5 The trial shall continue for a maximum of 8 weeks from its date of commencement or up to 10 weeks if agreed by the Agency in the case of delays arising following commencement.

The licensee states that the proposed processing equipment in the trial will be similar to that which was used in October/November 2013. The licensee further states that the longer duration (6 months) of the requested trial is necessary to optimise process operations to ensure maximum recovery and to economically cover the significant costs associated with the mobilisation of the specialised plant to site to conduct the trial. However, the licensee has not provided a justification for why a second trial is necessary, rather than moving to full scale operation, as was indicated in its technical amendment request in 2013.

3. Consultation with the Office of Environmental Enforcement (OEE)

I have consulted with the OEE inspectors Carol O’ Sullivan and Barry O’Connor, in relation to this technical amendment request. The OEE confirmed that the dust, PM₁₀ and noise monitoring undertaken during the period of the trial in 2013 indicated that there were no exceedences of the emission limits specified in Schedule C of the licence. The trial took place from 18th October 2013 to 1st November 2013.

4. Assessment

The acceptance of 30,000 tonnes of IBA is proposed to be undertaken within the 200,000 tonnes per annum waste acceptance limit specified in Schedule A of the licence. However, 30,000 tonnes represents 15% of the total annual waste tonnage authorised, which is significant. It is not appropriate that a change of such magnitude should be authorised by way of technical amendment – a process that does not provide for third party participation. There would likely be third party interest in the proposal and participation in the Agency's decision-making process can only be facilitated by way of licence review.

In addition, a proposal to accept and process 30,000 tonnes of waste over a 6 month period would require environmental assessment including, potentially, an Environmental Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment. It is noted that the River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA (Site Code: 004158) is located approximately 17km east and downstream of the installation. The proposal would also require consideration of appropriate environmental monitoring to be included in the licence. A revised Closure, Restoration and Aftercare Management Plan would be required, along with consideration of the suitability of the Environmental Liabilities Risk Assessment and financial provision currently in place. The scale and complexity of these considerations can only be facilitated by way of licence review. Further, this proposal constitutes treatment, which is in itself a recovery activity

listed as Class 11.4(b)(iii) *treatment of slags and ashes* in the First Schedule of the EPA Acts 1992 as amended.

It is noted in the EIS relating to the Dublin Waste to Energy installation at Poolbeg (Reg No. W0232-01) that the quantity of bottom ash estimated to be generated is 120,000 tonnes per annum. The proposed 30,000 tonnes of IBA which is the subject of the technical amendment request from Knockharley Landfill Limited represents 25% of the total annual IBA estimated to be generated at Poolbeg, which is due to commence firing in February 2017, with commercial waste acceptance anticipated from June 2017.

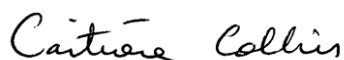
The change requested by the licensee would necessitate a new condition, or a change to condition 5.16 of the licence, which was introduced specifically to accommodate the IBA trial in 2013, and is specific to the requirements of the trial at that time i.e. 4,000 tonnes of IBA to be processed over a period of 8 weeks. In addition, the licensee's own screening assessment of the licence alteration request submitted using the EPA's on-line change request mechanism concluded that a licence review would be necessary to accommodate the requested changes.

The request for technical amendment should be refused.

5. Recommendation

I recommend that the Agency refuse the requested technical amendment of licence register number W0146-02.

Signed,



Inspector
Environmental Licensing Programme