



**OFFICE OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
SUSTAINABILITY**

**Environmental Licensing Programme Memorandum**

<b>To:</b>	Dara Lynott, Director
<b>From:</b>	Yvonne English, Inspector
<b>Date:</b>	8 May 2017
<b>RE:</b>	Request for a Technical Amendment to Waste Water Discharge Licence Register Number, D0139-01, held by Irish Water, for the Youghal agglomeration.

**Introduction**

A Waste Water Discharge Licence (Register Number D0139-01) was first granted for the Youghal agglomeration by the Environmental Protection Agency on 13 June 2012.

**Request for Technical Amendment**

In a letter to the Agency dated 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017, Irish Water requested a technical amendment to the licence under Regulation 33(1) of the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007 as amended.

There is currently no waste water treatment plant servicing the Youghal agglomeration. The waste water is discharged to the Lower Blackwater Estuary via three outfalls (SW000, SW002 & SW003). A new waste water treatment plant (WWTP) is due to be commissioned and operational by 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017, however the construction of the primary discharge point (210852E, 078125N) has been delayed due to legal issues.

SW000 is the current primary discharge point and Irish Water are seeking authorisation for the discharge of treated waste water via SW000 until such time as SW001 is operational in order to permit the operation of the new waste water treatment plant and cease the discharge of untreated waste water. Irish Water plan to construct and make operational the proposed primary discharge point, SW001, once the legal issues are concluded.

Irish Water also seek authorisation to extend the date that secondary discharges (SW002 & SW003) cease and the date that storm water overflows (SW007, SW008, SW009 & SW010) cease until completion of the new WWTP.

In the process of technically amending this licence, the Agency has taken the opportunity to make amendments to this licence to bring it into line with the Agency's current modus operandi for waste water discharge authorisations.

Birds Directive [79/409/EEC] & Habitats Directive [92/43/EEC]

There are discharges from the Youghal agglomeration directly into the Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC and Blackwater Estuary SPA designated under the E.U. Habitats or Birds Directives, respectively.

The discharges are not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European Site and it is considered, for the reasons set out below, that it can be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the discharges, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on any European Site and accordingly it was determined that an Appropriate Assessment was not required.

A Stage 1 screening for Appropriate Assessment of discharges from the agglomeration was undertaken to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and in view of the conservation objectives of the site, if the discharges, individually or in combination with other plans or projects are likely to have a significant effect on the European Sites.

The screening for Appropriate Assessment examined, in particular, the impact of the proposed temporary relocation of the primary discharge in Youghal Estuary from SW001 (Ferry point) to an existing discharge point SW000 (Dunn's Park). The discharge comprises effluent that has been subject to tertiary treatment with UV filtration.

Using the source-pathway-receptor model, the qualifying interests of the Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC and Blackwater Estuary SPA are considered to have potential connectivity to Dunn's Park discharge point (SW000).

The screening assessment (Stage 1) undertaken demonstrates that the discharge is not likely to have significant effects, in terms of maintaining favourable conservation status of the qualifying interests, on the European Sites having regard to their conservation objectives as updated water quality modelling confirms that the relocation of the discharge point to SW000 will not result in deterioration of water quality in the estuary.

**Recommendation**

I recommend that the licence amendment be approved as set out in the attached recommended Technical Amendment. This amendment does not result in the relevant requirements of Regulation 6(3) of the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007 as amended, ceasing to be satisfied.

Signed

Yvonne English  
Yvonne English

Environmental Licensing Programme