

Baseline Screening Assessment

**Michael Noel O' Connor,
Rathcahill West, Templeglantine,
Newcastlewest, Co. Limerick.**

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1. Introduction

This Baseline Screening Assessment has been produced by NRG Ltd. on behalf of Michael Noel O' Connor for a Poultry Unit at Rathcahill West, Templeglantine, Newcastlewest, Co. Limerick. This report is the meet the requirements set out under Stages 1 to 3 of the European Commission Guidance concerning baseline reports under Article 2(2) of Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions.

This Screening Assessment forms part of a response to an EPA request for further information dated 26th August 2017 in relation to an Industrial Emissions Licence Application – Reg. No: P1042-01.

1.1 Description of the Site

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 facility is situated in a rural location where agriculture is the main industry. The site is located at a high elevation, surrounded on all sides by agricultural land with the structures onsite well screened from road users on the N21.

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

The unit comprises of an activity in relation to which an Industrial Emissions Licence under Part IV of the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992 as amended by the Protection of the Environment Act 2003 (as amended) is required.

Table 1: Chronology of the Site

Planning or Appeal Reference Number	Planning Authority/An Bord Pleanala	Date of Planning Decision (Final)	Brief description
91177	Limerick County Council	22/02/1991	Erection of poultry house and boundary wall
931292	Limerick County Council	23/12/1993	Construction of poultry house
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

1.2 Legislation and Guidance Documents

The completion of this screening report is necessary in order to assess whether a Baseline Report is required for the existing Poultry Unit at Rathcahill West, Templeglantine, Newcastlewest, Co. Limerick.

As per the European Commission Guidance concerning baseline reports under Article 22(2) of Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions, there are 8 stages to determine whether a baseline report assessment is required and also in order to produce the baseline report itself. These are as follows:

Stages 1-3: to decide whether a baseline report is required;

Stages 4-7: to determine how a baseline report has to be prepared;

Stages 8: to determine the content of the report.

Table 2: Main stages of preparing the baseline report

Stage	Activity	Objective
1	Identify which hazardous substances are used, produced or released at the installation and produce a list of these hazardous substances.	Determine whether or not hazardous substances are used, produced or released in view of deciding on the need to prepare and submit a baseline report.
2	Identify which of the hazardous substances from Stage 1 are 'relevant hazardous substances' (see Section 4.2).	To restrict further consideration to only the relevant hazardous substances in view of deciding on the need to prepare and submit a baseline report.
3	For each relevant hazardous substance brought forward from Stage 2, identify the actual possibility for soil or groundwater contamination at the site of the installation, including the probability of releases and their consequences, and taking particular account of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The quantities of each hazardous substances or groups of similar hazardous substances concerned; - How and where hazardous substances are stored, used and to be transported around the installation; - Where they pose a risk to be released; - In case of existing installations also the measures that have been adopted to ensure that it is impossible in practice that contamination of soil or groundwater takes place. 	To identify which of the relevant hazardous substances represent a potential pollution risk at the site based on the likelihood of releases of such substances occurring. For these substances information must be included in the baseline report.
4	Provide a site history. Consider available data and information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In relation to the present use of the site, and on emissions of hazardous substances which have occurred and which may give rise to pollution. In particular, consider accidents or incidents, drips or spills from routine operations, changes in operational practice, site surfacing, changes in the hazardous substances used. - Previous uses of the site that may have resulted in the release 	Identify potential sources which may have resulted in the hazardous substances identified in Stage 3 being already present on the site of the installation.

	<p>of hazardous substances, be they the same as those used, produced or released by the existing installation, or different ones.</p> <p>Review of previous investigation reports may assist in compiling this data.</p>	
5	<p>Identify the site's environmental setting including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Topography - Geology - Direction of groundwater flow - Other potential migration pathways such as drains and service channels - Environmental aspects (e.g. particular habitats, species, protected areas etc.); and - Surrounding land use 	<p>Determine where hazardous substances may go if released and where to look for them. Also identify the environmental media and receptors that are potentially at risk and where there are other activities in the area which release the same hazardous substances and may cause them to migrate onto the site.</p>
6	<p>Use the result of Stages 3 to 5 to describe the site, in particular demonstrating the location type, extent and quantity of historic pollution and potential future emissions sources noting the strata and groundwater likely to be affected by these emissions – making links between sources of emissions, the pathways by which pollution may move and the receptors likely to be affected.</p>	<p>Identify the location, nature and extent of existing pollution on the site and to determine which strata and groundwater might be affected by such pollution. Compare with potential future emissions to see if areas are coincident.</p>
7	<p>If there is sufficient information to quantify the state of soil and groundwater pollution by relevant hazardous substances on the basis of Stages (1) to (6) then go directly to Stage 8. If insufficient information exists then intrusive investigation of the site will be required in order to gather such information. The details of such investigation should be clarified with the competent authority.</p>	<p>Collect additional information as necessary to allow a quantified assessment of soil and groundwater pollution by relevant hazardous substances.</p>
8	<p>Produce a baseline report for installation that quantifies the state of soil and groundwater pollution by relevant hazardous substances.</p>	<p>Provide a baseline report in line with the IED.</p>

2. Stage 1

- **Identify which hazardous substances are used, produced or released at the installation and produce a list of these hazardous substances**
- **Determine whether or not hazardous substances are used, produced or released in view of deciding on the need to prepare and submit a baseline report.**

Substances currently used and produced at the existing Poultry Unit at Rathcahill West, Templeglantine, Newcastlewest, Co. Limerick include: poultry litter, soiled water, feed, heating oil, veterinary medicine, disinfectant, bulbs, electric motors/fans metals, building materials during any construction phase.

3. Stage 2

- **Identify which if the hazardous substances from stage 1 are 'relevant hazardous substances' as outlined under section 4.2 of the EU Guidance documentation. Discard those hazardous substances that are incapable of contaminating soil or groundwater. Justify and record the decisions taken to exclude certain hazardous**
- **To restrict further consideration to only the relevant hazardous substances in view of deciding on the need to prepare and submit a baseline report.**

Stage 2 identifies which of the substances from Stage 1 fall under the hazardous substances category as per the European Commission Guidance concerning baseline reports under Article 22(2) of Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions, Section 4.2:

“Relevant hazardous substances’ (Article 3(18) and Article 22(2), first subparagraph) are those substances or mixtures defined within Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 on the classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures (CLP Regulation) which, as a result of their hazardousness, mobility, persistence and biodegradability (as well as other characteristics), are capable of contaminating soil or groundwater and are used, produced and/or released by the installation.”

A. Poultry Litter

The poultry litter 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.

Decision: Exclude from further consideration.

B. 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 90m³. 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.

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

Decision: Exclude from further consideration.

C. Feed

Quantity and use: Approximately 1,341 tonnes of feed will be used at the unit.

Potential for Contamination of Soil/Groundwater: Dust from the silo exhaust pipe is collected in a cylinder which contains water. This is deposited monthly to the underground tanks. Feed spillage which is kept to a minimum as per good housekeeping and management practice will go directly to the underground storage tanks.

Decision: Exclude from further consideration.

D. Gas

Quantity and use: approximately 54,000 litres will be utilised on site annually.

Potential for Contamination of Soil/Groundwater: There is no potential for contamination of soil/groundwater from heating gas as every precaution will be taken to avoid such an occurrence. Heating gas is stored in locally bunded tanks onsite. In the case of an accidental emission of gas, the developer will immediately notify Limerick County Council and the Environmental Protection Agency and any other regulatory officials whilst also taking the necessary measures to clean up such an emission as per the site's Emergency Response Procedures.

Decision: Excluded from further consideration.

E. Veterinary medicine

Quantity and use: Minimal

Potential for Contamination of Soil/Groundwater: There is no potential for contamination of soil/groundwater as every precaution will be taken to avoid any such occurrence. Once used, veterinary medicine waste is kept in a sealed container. A maintenance contract is in place with a permitted medical waste Collection Contractor to collect this veterinary waste on an annual basis. All movements will be recorded in the Waste Register.

Decision: Exclude from further consideration.

F. Disinfectant

Quantity and use: Each section of the unit is power washed and disinfected as the birds are moved in an 'all in all out' system. Only detergents which are approved by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine are used on site. These are stored in a designated impervious storage area within an existing storage shed onsite. With good housekeeping

and management practices, disinfectants used on site will not impede on the status of soil or groundwater. All wash water is diverted to the underground storage tanks.

Potential for Contamination of Soil/Groundwater: There is no potential for contamination of soil/groundwater as every precaution will be taken to avoid any such occurrence.

Decision: Exclude from further consideration.

G. Bulbs (infra-red/florescent)

Quantity and use: The volume of infra-red bulbs and florescent lights used on the facility are small and these are accumulated and stored on an impervious floor away from potential breakages until the annual visit of Chemcar to the area.

Potential for Contamination of Soil/Groundwater: There is no potential for contamination of soil/groundwater.

Decision: Exclude from further consideration.

H. Electric Motors/fans – metals

Quantity and use: Scrap metals arising from day to day operations will be accumulated safely in a designated area for collection by a scrap metals collection contractor for recycling.

Potential for Contamination of Soil/Groundwater: There is no potential for contamination of soil/groundwater.

Decision: Exclude from further consideration.

I. Building Materials- Construction phase only

Quantity and use: For any construction phase, all wastes will be segregated on site. The waste storage area will have skips and receptacles for all recyclable wastes. Concrete and Stone accumulated from the construction stage of the proposed development will be minimal and will be reused for the up keep of the farm roadways. Waste timber will be cut/chopped, to be burnt in domestic fires.

Potential for Contamination of Soil/Groundwater: Following good management and housekeeping practices, there will be no potential for contamination of soil/groundwater.

Decision: Exclude from further consideration.

J. Oil/Lubricants

Quantity and use: Accidental oil/ lubricants/diesel leaks from machinery onsite during any construction phase of the development will be dealt with using emergency procedures, in order to avoid potential risk to soil and/or groundwater. Construction machinery will be refuelled onsite using a mobile bowser in a designated impervious area.

Potential for Contamination of Soil/Groundwater: There is no potential contamination of soil/groundwater.

Decision: Exclude from further consideration due to the short period of time the developed will take to complete.

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4. Stage 3

- For each relevant hazardous substances brought forward from Stage 2, identify the actual possibility for soil or groundwater contamination at the site of the installation, including the probability of releases and their consequences, and taking particular account of:
 - The quantities of each hazardous substance or groups of similar hazardous substances concerned;
 - How and where hazardous substances are stored, used and to be transported around the installation;
 - Where they pose a risk to be released;
 - In case of existing installations also the measures that have been adopted to ensure that it is impossible in practice that contamination of soil or groundwater takes place.

- To identify which of the relevant hazardous substances represent a potential pollution risk at the site based on the likelihood of releases of such substances occurring. For these substances, information must be included in the baseline report.

For each relevant hazardous substances brought forward from Stage 2, identify the actual possibility for soil or groundwater contamination at the site of the installation, including the probability of releases and their consequences, and taking particular account of:

Not applicable

To identify which of the relevant hazardous substances represent a potential pollution risk at the site based on the likelihood of releases of such substances occurring. For these substances, information must be included in the baseline report.

The site is not located near any sensitive ecological areas including Natural Heritage Areas, Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas.

Furthermore, there is no history of accidental spills or leaks from the Poultry Unit at Rathcahill West, Templeglantine, Newcastlewest, Co. Limerick and emergency mitigation measures are in place to deal with any such event.

Therefore, the potential for this Unit to result in the production of or release of hazardous substances as defined in Section 3 of the EPA Act is seen to be unlikely and a Baseline Report has not been produced.