



**Comhairle Contae  
Dhún na nGall**  
Donegal County Council

**Mr John Gibbons  
Inspector  
OEE  
EPA Regional Inspectorate  
John Moore Road  
Castlebar  
Co. Mayo**

**2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2017**

**W0090-01:- Licence Change Request**

A site remediation scoping study to assess proposals for remediation works at Balbane landfill site (W0090-01) has been completed.

Restoration works are required to minimise the impacts of the unengineered remote landfill site on local surface water in particular. The study has been prepared with a view to determining the most effective and sustainable option which achieves the goal of restoring the site in line with waste licensing requirements and minimising fugitive emissions to the environment.

The study considered 5 options. A qualitative and quantitative assessment has been undertaken of the proposed options using the criteria and matrix as described in the study. The preferred option is an engineered cap and the installation of an integrated constructed wetland (ICW) on the existing site. This is subject to detail design which would incorporate information derived from the commissioning of the ICW which is being utilised to treat leachate on Churchtown Landfill Site and it can be demonstrated that there would be no impact on receiving waters.

Condition 4.4 of the licence (W0090-01) currently stipulates the final capping for the site as follows:

- a) top soil (150 -300mm);
- b) subsoils, such that total thickness of top soil and subsoils is at least 1m;
- c) drainage layer of 0.5m thickness having a minimum hydraulic conductivity of  $1 \times 10^{-4}$  m/s;
- d) compacted mineral layer of a minimum 0.6m thickness with a permeability of less than  $1 \times 10^{-9}$  m/s or a geosynthetic material (e.g. GCL) or similar that provides equivalent protection; and
- e) gas collection layer of natural material (minimum 0.3m) or a geosynthetic layer.

Donegal County Council hereby requests that this Condition 4.4 of the licence be amended to allow options such as an alternative engineered cap and the installation of an ICW to be considered by the Agency.

Yours sincerely,

Julie McMahon  
Executive Engineer  
On behalf of Donegal County Council

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