



**OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
SUSTAINABILITY**

**ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSING PROGRAMME**

<b>TO:</b>	Eimear Cotter, Director
<b>FROM:</b>	Brian Meaney, Inspector, Environmental Licensing Programme
<b>DATE:</b>	13 March 2018
<b>RE:</b>	Technical amendment to Industrial Emissions licence register number W0020-02 held by Monaghan County Council in relation to the Scotch Corner landfill.

On 12/10/2017 Monaghan County Council sought a technical amendment to the Industrial Emissions licence for the Scotch Corner landfill which also regulates the operation of a civic amenity facility and transfer station on the same site. The request relates to the licence-mandated frequency for emptying the residual waste compactor at the civic amenity facility.

This memo recommends that the change may be accommodated by technical amendment of the licence in accordance with Section 96(1)(c) of EPA Acts 1992 as amended.

### **1. Background**

Monaghan County Council was granted a licence in December 2001 for a landfill and a materials recovery facility (MRF). A revised licence was issued in March 2010, the review having been initiated by the EPA for the purposes of the Landfill Directive. The revised licence (W0020-02) was amended in January 2013 for the Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010. The licence became an Industrial Emissions licence in January 2014.

The landfill closed in October 2017. The MRF has continued in operation.

### **2. Technical Amendment request**

Unsorted domestic waste is deposited at the materials recovery facility by members of the public. Condition 5.10.4 of the licence requires that the waste is compacted within 12 hours and removed for disposal within 72 hours. With the landfill closed, the waste has to travel off-site to other facilities. The licensee requests a longer removal period due to the fact that the compactor is generally not full after 72 hours and it takes an 88km round trip to empty the compactor. The licensee requests that the 72 hour period be extended to a monthly frequency.

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

I have consulted with the OEE in relation to this technical amendment request. The OEE confirmed that the proposed extension of time cannot be accommodated under the existing licence.

#### 4. Assessment

Odour is the greatest potential source of nuisance arising from the extended storage of unsorted domestic waste. The nearest residence to the materials recovery facility is approximately 180m to the east. There have been no odour complaints in relation to the facility for some years.

According to OEE, leachate leaks from the compactor but this is captured and directed to the landfill leachate collection system.

Given the risk of odour nuisance, I recommend that OEE be given scope to agree an appropriate storage period for waste in the compactor, ongoing agreement being contingent on no odour nuisance being caused.

I also recommend deletion of "for disposal" from the condition because it serves no purpose.

Thus, the condition will be amended from:

All unsorted domestic waste accepted at the civic waste facility for disposal shall be compacted within 12 hours. Such waste shall be removed for disposal within 72 hours.

to:

All unsorted domestic waste accepted at the civic waste facility shall be compacted within 12 hours. Unless otherwise agreed by the Agency, such waste shall be removed from the installation within 72 hours.

#### 5. Appropriate Assessment

A screening for Appropriate Assessment was undertaken and is documented in the proposed technical amendment document. The following is a list of European sites assessed, their associated qualifying interests and conservation objectives.

European Site [site code]	Distance from facility	Qualifying interests (*denotes a priority habitat)	Conservation objectives
Dundalk Bay SAC [000455]	>44km	1130 Estuaries 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide 1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks 1310 <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand 1330 Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i> ) 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritim</i> )	As per NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives: Dundalk Bay SAC 000455 and Dundalk Bay SPA 004026.
Dundalk BAY SPA [004026]	>44km	A005 Great Crested Grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> wintering A043 Greylag Goose <i>Anser anser</i> wintering A046 Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> wintering A048 Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> wintering A052 Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> wintering A053 Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> wintering A054 Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> wintering A065 Common Scoter <i>Melanitta nigra</i> wintering	Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. Dated 19/7/2011.

		A069 Red-breasted Merganser <i>Mergus serrator</i> wintering A130 Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> wintering A137 Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> wintering A140 Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> wintering A141 Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> wintering A142 Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> wintering A143 Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> wintering A149 Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i> wintering A156 Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> wintering A157 Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> wintering A160 Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> wintering A162 Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> wintering A179 Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> wintering A182 Common Gull <i>Larus canus</i> wintering A184 Herring Gull <i>Larus argentatus</i> wintering A999 Wetlands & Waterbirds	
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## 6. Recommendation

I recommend that the licence amendment be approved as set out in the attached Recommended Technical Amendment. The making of the amendment will not result in the relevant requirements of Section 83(5) of the EPA Acts 1992 to 2012 ceasing to be satisfied.

Signed

Brian Meaney  
Environmental Licensing Programme