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Ireland

TECHNICAL AMENDMENT B  
TO  
INDUSTRIAL EMISSIONS LICENCE

<b>Licence Register Number:</b>	W0090-01
<b>Licensee:</b>	Donegal County Council
<b>Location of Installation:</b>	Balbane Landfill Site Balbane Killybegs County Donegal

## ***Reasons for the Decision***

The Environmental Protection Agency is satisfied, on the basis of the information available, that subject to compliance with the conditions of Licence Register Number W0090-01 granted on 13 November 2001 and amended on 15 January 2013 and 19 December 2013 as well as any amendments noted herein, any emissions from the activity will comply with and not contravene any of the requirements of Section 83(5) of the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992 as amended.

A screening for Appropriate Assessment was undertaken to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of the site, if the activity, individually or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant effect on any European Site. In this context, particular attention was paid to the European Sites at St. John's Point SAC [000191] and Inishduff SPA [004115].

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

- The area around the landfill is drained by a network of rivers that flow generally eastwards to the Stragar River.
- Any discharge from the area immediately around the landfill is taken by small streams to the Balbane River. This merges with the Loughaderry River which discharges into the Stragar River. The nearest river q-value is 4 (good) on the Loughaderry at Bungosteen bridge some 3.3km downstream of the landfill. Water quality deteriorates (q-value 3-4) downstream at E Fainannan on the Stragar River but improves again within a kilometre (q-value 4) at Br SW of Tullagha.
- The Stragar River discharges to Killybegs Harbour outside of which are located the two European sites listed above. The river channel from the landfill to Killybegs Harbour is approximately 6.5km. St John's Point SAC is almost 7km south from where the Stragar River discharges into Killybegs Harbour. Inishduff SPA is located further out to sea again and to the west.
- The 2015 Hydrogeological Risk Assessment submitted to the EPA by Donegal County Council shows the Balbane River and Loughaderry River to be at risk of contamination due to leachate discharge from the landfill. The 2015 document states that leachate strength is relatively low. Impact is greatest in close proximity to the landfill with elevated ammonia (as N), BOD and chloride recorded consistently. The concentration of these pollutants further downstream is significantly reduced and reducing with distance from the landfill (albeit with one spike for ammonia at 16mg/l) at S7 which is located approximately 3km downstream from the landfill. No notable levels of heavy metals were detected. No list I and list II organic substances, hydrocarbons or phenols were detected.
- Contamination in surface water evidently decreases with distance. There is no evidence that water quality in the vicinity of the marine European sites listed

above is impacted by leachate discharging from the landfill. Killybegs Harbour has a Water Framework Directive ecological status of "moderate". Further out into McSwynes Bay, where St. John's Point SAC is partly located, the WFD ecological status improves to "good".

## ***Technical Amendment***

In pursuance of the powers conferred on it by Section 96(1)(c) of the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992 as amended, the Agency amends the licence granted to Donegal County Council for an installation located at Balbane, Killybegs, County Donegal.

Henceforth, the licence shall be read in conjunction with a Section 82A(11) amendment issued on 19 December 2013, Amendment A issued on 15 January 2013 and the amendments set out below.

This technical amendment is limited to the following:

- Condition 4.4

## ***Amendment***

Amend Condition 4.4 of the licence to read as follows:

### **4.4 Final capping**

4.4.1 Unless otherwise agreed by the Agency, the final capping shall consist of the following:

- 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.

This technical amendment shall be cited as Amendment B to the licence.

**Sealed by the Seal of the Agency on this the 26<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2018**

**PRESENT when the seal of the Agency was affixed hereto**

**Mary Turner, Authorised Person**

