


This Report has been cleared for submission to the Board by Eimear Cotter, Director

Signed: 

Date 24/09/18



**OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY**

ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSING PROGRAMME

TO: Each Director

FROM: Brian Meaney, Inspector, Environmental Licensing Programme

DATE: 24 September 2018

RE: Technical amendment
Industrial Emissions licence Register Number W0178-02 held by
Galway County Council.
Licence Change Request CR04163.

On 2 August 2017, Galway County Council sought a technical amendment of Industrial Emissions Licence Register Number W0178-02 which regulates waste activities at the East Galway landfill. The amendment was sought to authorise the intake of 36,702 tonnes of waste over and above authorised waste acceptance. The waste is comprised of non-hazardous, non-inert waste and will be used to reprofile areas of the landfill that have been temporarily capped and where settlement has occurred. Following reprofiling to the desired shape, the final cap will be installed.

This memo recommends that the change cannot be accommodated by a technical amendment of the licence.

1. Background

Greenstar Recycling Holdings Limited was granted a waste licence (Register Number W0178-01) in July 2004 authorising the operation of a new landfill near the village of Kilconnel in County Galway. A revised waste licence (W0178-02) was issued to Greenstar Holdings Limited in March 2010, the licence review having been initiated by the EPA for the purposes of the Landfill Directive. The revised licence was amended in January 2011 (waste acceptance) and January 2013 (Groundwater Regulations). The waste licence became an Industrial Emissions licence in January 2014 and was transferred to Galway County Council in June 2016.

The landfill closed in 2013 and was reopened by Galway County Council during 2016.

The licence is for the operation of a landfill and associated activities including the acceptance for disposal and recovery of waste at the landfill.

2. Technical Amendment request

The proposal is to accept more waste than is currently authorised as annual intake. The original request was for 36,702 tonnes to be used to reprofile cells 4 and 5. Some 18,962 tonnes of this requirement was accepted in 2017. The balance to be accepted in 2018 is

17,740 tonnes. The latest report from the licensee to the Office of Environmental Enforcement state that 15,029 tonnes of this has been accepted so far in 2018. The material is described in OEE returns as “engineering soil and stones as per licence change request CR04163”.

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 acceptance of additional waste cannot be accommodated under the existing licence.

4. Assessment

The waste proposed to be accepted for reprofiling of cells 4 and 5 is non-inert, non-hazardous waste arising at construction and demolition activities. Table A.1 of the licence regulates the disposal of non-inert, non-hazardous waste and does not provide for the acceptance of construction and demolition waste. In any event, the licensee has chosen not to allocate the additional waste against this 100,000 tonne allowance which is reserved for municipal waste collections for which national capacity is tight.

Table A.1 Waste Categories and Quantities for Disposal

Waste Type	Maximum (Tonnes per Annum) ^{Note 1}
Household	45,000
Commercial	27,500
Industrial non-hazardous	24,500
Asbestos waste	3,000
TOTAL	100,000

Note 1: The tonnage of household waste, commercial waste and industrial non-hazardous waste may be altered with the prior agreement of the Agency provided that the total amount of these wastes accepted at the facility does not exceed the combined tonnage of 100,000 tonnes per annum (as specified in the total above) and the amount of asbestos does not exceed 3,000 tonnes per annum.

Table A.2 of the licence regulates the recovery of inert waste for the purposes of restoration and aftercare. The waste proposed for acceptance is not inert and cannot be accommodated under Table A.2.

Table A.2 Waste Categories and Quantities for Recovery

Waste Type	Maximum (Tonnes per Annum)
Inert wastes (for the purposes of restoration and aftercare)	27,320

To accommodate the acceptance of additional non-inert, non-hazardous waste, one option is to insert a new table into the licence by technical amendment, as follows.

Table A.4 Additional Waste Categories and Quantities

Waste Type	Maximum (Tonnes per Annum)
Non-hazardous construction and demolition waste for reprofiling works on cells 4 and 5. The waste shall not be gas or odour forming nor pose any risk of odour nuisance arising.	17,740

The environmental issues arising from the proposed additional waste acceptance include traffic and odour. The former will be restricted by planning permission. The latter is to be avoided and for this reason, the text in the model table A.4 above would limit the acceptance of waste to non-gas or odour forming waste. Fugitive dust, noise and other emissions are addressed in the existing licence, as is landfill gas management, and no new provisions would be required.

I have set out above what licence amendment would accommodate the licensee's proposals. However, the proposal to authorise by technical amendment the acceptance of additional waste over and above licence limits is not one that is ordinarily accommodated by the EPA. For this reason, I recommend refusal of the request and have completed no screening for appropriate assessment.

5. Recommendation

I recommend that the licence amendment request is refused for the following reasons:

- an increase in waste acceptance at a landfill cannot ordinarily be accommodated by technical amendment of a licence; and
- the limitations in section 96 of the EPA Act 1992 as amended are exceeded.

Signed



Brian Meaney
Environmental Licensing Programme