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**DETERMINATION OF AIR EMISSIONS TO ATMOSPHERE FROM THE NESTLE FACILITY, ASKEATON, COUNTY LIMERICK**

\_ Technical Report Prepared For

**Nestle Askeaton Coolrahnee Askeaton County Limerick** For the consent of conservative conservative conservative or any other conservative or any other conservative or any other conservative or the conservative or any other conservative or the conservative or the conservative

 $\sim$   $\sim$   $\sim$   $\sim$ Technical Report Prepared By

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\_ Our Reference

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# **Document History**



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# **Record of Approval**



#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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AWN Consulting Ltd were commissioned to carry out an air dispersion modelling study of emissions from the Nestle Askeaton facility in Askeaton, Co. Limerick based on the current design details. The modelling assessment will form part of the Technical Amendment application process which will be required due, in part, to the installation of one new emission points on-site (A2-8) and the decommissioning of two emission points (A2-2 and A2-5).

The air dispersion modelling compared the ambient air quality impact of the current licensed main emission points (A2-1, A2-2, A2-3, A2-4, A2-5 and A2-6) and the proposed scenario based on five emission points (A2-1, A2-3, A2-4, A2-6 and A2-8).

Air dispersion modelling was carried out using the United States Environmental Protection Agency's regulatory model AERMOD (Version 16128r). The aim of the study was to assess both the existing scenario and secondly the contribution of one new emission point and all remaining existing emission points from the facility to off-site levels of release substances and to identify the location and maximum of the worst-case ground level concentrations for each compound assessed. The dispersion model study consisted of the following components:

- Review of new and existing emission data and other relevant information needed for the modelling study;
- Summary of background for the pollutants of concern  $(PM_{10}/PM_{2.5}$  levels);
- Dispersion modelling of released substances under the current and proposed emission scenarios;
- Presentation of predicted ground level concentrations of released substances;
- Evaluation of the significance of these predicted concentrations, including consideration of whether these ground level concentrations are likely to exceed the relevant ambient air quality limit values.<br>**\*\*\***<br>sment Summary ed ground level concent<br>isignificance of these<br>iner these ground level condition<br>iality limit values.<br> $\frac{1}{200}$ <br> $\frac{1}{200}$ <br>ambient ground level conditions<br>ambient ground level conditions Conserved a conserved of the politicance of the concentrations of<br>ed ground level concentrations of<br>ignificance of the se predicted<br>er these ground level concentrations<br>ality limit values.<br> $\frac{1}{2\sqrt{3}}$ <br> $\frac{1}{2\sqrt{3}}$ <br> $\frac{$

#### **Assessment Summary**

The results indicate that the ambient ground level concentrations are below the relevant air quality standards for  $PM_{10}$  /  $PM_{2.5}$  for the existing scenario. Emissions from the facility lead to an ambient PM<sub>10</sub> concentration (including background) which is 86% of the maximum ambient 24-hour limit value at the worst-case receptor. In relation to the annual mean concentration, ambient PM<sub>10</sub> / PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration (including background) are at most 58% of the annual mean limit values at the worst-case receptor.

The results also indicate that the ambient ground level concentrations are below the relevant air quality standards for  $PM_{10}$  /  $PM_{2.5}$  for the proposed scenario. Emissions from the facility lead to an ambient  $PM_{10}$  concentration (including background) which is 73% of the maximum ambient 24-hour limit value at the worst-case receptor. In relation to the annual mean concentration, ambient  $PM_{10}$  /  $PM_{2.5}$  concentration (including background) are at most 50% of the annual mean limit values at the worst-case receptor.

Comparing the results of the existing and proposed modelling scenarios shows that the impact of the proposed removal of main emission points A2-2 and A2-5 and the introduction of main emission point A2-8 is to decrease the predicted ambient air concentrations for all averaging periods and for both  $PM_{10}$  and  $PM_{2.5}$ . The benefit of the proposed changes to licenced emission points is to decrease ambient levels of  $PM_{10}$  by as much as 13% of the ambient limit value whilst PM2.5 ambient levels will decrease by up 10% of the ambient limit value.

In summary, all emissions from the facility under normal operations of the facility will be in compliance with the ambient air quality standards whilst the proposed changes to the licenced emission points will further reduced environmental concentrations.

# **CONTENTS Page**



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#### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

AWN Consulting Ltd were commissioned to carry out an air dispersion modelling study of emissions from the Nestle Askeaton facility in Askeaton, Co. Limerick based on the current and proposed design details. The modelling assessment will form part of the Technical Amendment application process which will be required due, in part, to the installation of one new emission points on-site (A2-8) and the decommissioning of two emission points (A2-2 and A2-5).

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The air dispersion modelling will compare the ambient air quality impact of the current licensed main emission points (A2-1, A2-2, A2-3, A2-4, A2-5 and A-2-6) and the proposed scenario based on five emission points (A2-1, A2-3, A2-4, A-2-6 and A2-8). The current Industrial Emission Directive (IED) Licence for the facility is P0395-03.

The site, consisting of approximately 13 hectares, is located approximately 25km west of Limerick City and 1km north of Askeaton. In the immediate region of the facility, the land-use is dominated by agriculture and one-off housing as shown in Figure 1 with Askeaton village located approximately 1 km south of the facility. Several residential units are also located in the vicinity of the facility with various commercial units located within 500m of the site. The River Shannon & River Fergus SPA is also located immediately east of the facility with the Lower Shannon SAC located within 1km north of the site.

Air dispersion modelling was carried out using the United States Environmental Protection Agency's regulatory model AERMOD (Version 16128r). The aim of the study was to assess both the existing scenario and secondly the contribution of one new emission point and all remaining existing emission points from the facility to offsite levels of release substances and to identify the location and maximum of the worstcase ground level concentrations for each compound assessed. The dispersion model study consisted of the following components: Explored AERMC<br>
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- Review of emission data and other relevant information needed for the modelling study;
- Summary of background  $PM_{10}$  /  $PM_{2.5}$  levels;
- Dispersion modelling of  $PM_{10}$  /  $PM_{2.5}$  under the current and proposed emission scenarios;
- Presentation of predicted ground level concentrations of released substances;
- Evaluation of the significance of these predicted concentrations, including consideration of whether these ground level concentrations are likely to exceed the relevant ambient air quality limit values.

Information supporting the conclusions has been detailed in the following sections. The assessment methodology and study inputs are presented in Section 2. The dispersion modelling results and assessment summaries are presented in Section 3. The model formulation is detailed in Appendix I, a review of the meteorological data used is detailed in Appendix II whilst detailed meteorological data is presented in Appendix III.



#### **2.0 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY**

Emissions from the facility have been modelled using the AERMOD dispersion model (Version 16216r) which has been developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)<sup>(1)</sup> and following guidance issued by the EPA<sup>(2)</sup>. The model is a steady-state Gaussian plume model used to assess pollutant concentrations associated with industrial sources and has replaced  $ISCST3<sup>(3)</sup>$  as the regulatory model by the USEPA for modelling emissions from industrial sources in both flat and rolling terrain<sup>(4-6)</sup>. The model has more advanced algorithms and gives better agreement with monitoring data in extensive validation studies $(7-10)$ . An overview of the AERMOD dispersion model is outlined in Appendix I.

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The air dispersion modelling input data consisted of information on the physical environment (including building dimensions and terrain features), design details from all emission points on-site and five years of appropriate hourly meteorological data. Using this input data the model predicted ambient ground level concentrations beyond the site boundary for each hour of the modelled meteorological years. The model postprocessed the data to identify the location and maximum of the worst-case ground level concentration. This worst-case concentration was then added to the background concentration to give the worst-case predicted environmental concentration (PEC). The PEC was then compared with the relevant ambient air quality standard to assess the significance of the releases from the site.

Throughout this study a worst-case approach was taken. This will most likely lead to an over-estimation of the levels that will arise in practice. The worst-case assumptions are outlined below: Example of conservative of conservative of conservative in a worst-case approach was taken<br>a worst-case approach was taken<br>incted concentrations were report<br>otors were real in the location of this<br>conservations were unces

- Maximum predicted concentrations were reported in this study, even if no residential receptors were  $n \rightarrow \infty$  the location of this maximum; The levels that will arise and<br>icted concentrations we<br>ptors were need the local<br>ckground concentrations<br>inces released from the s<br>building downwash, du<br>been included in the mod
- Worst-case background concentrations were used to assess the baseline levels of substances released from the site;
- The effects of building downwash, due to on-site and any nearby off-site buildings, has beep included in the model;
- Worst-case operations for  $PM_{10}$  /  $PM_{2.5}$  emissions assumes all emission points were running continuously for a full year;
- Hours of operation were based on the highest recorded level over the last five years for each emission point. It was also assumed that all emission points overlap for a significant period each day that the emission points were in operation;
- Modelling assumed that all emission points were running at the IED emission concentration and maximum volume flow for each hour modelled.

#### **2.1 Ambient Air Quality Standards**

In order to reduce the risk to health from poor air quality, national and European statutory bodies have set limit values in ambient air for a range of air pollutants. These limit values or "Air Quality Standards" are health- or environmental-based levels for which additional factors may be considered. The applicable standards in Ireland include the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011, which incorporate EU Directive 2008/50/EC (see Table 1). The ambient air quality standards applicable for  $PM_{10}$  / PM<sub>2.5</sub> are outlined in this Directive.

These standards have been used in the current assessment to determine the potential impact of  $PM_{10}$  /  $PM_{2.5}$  emissions from the proposed facility on air quality.



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Note 1 EU 2008/50/EC – Clean Air For Europe (CAFÉ) Directive replaces the previous Air Framework Directive (1996/30/EC) and daughter directives 1999/30/EC and 2000/69/EC

*Table 1* Air Quality Standards 2011 (Based on Directive 2008/50/EC)

#### **2.2 Background Concentrations Of Pollutants**

Air quality monitoring programs have been undertaken in recent years by the EPA and Local Authorities<sup>(11,12)</sup>. The most recent annual report on air quality "Air Quality Monitoring Annual Report 2015<sup>"(11)</sup>, details the range and scope of monitoring undertaken throughout Ireland. As part of the implementation of the Framework Directive on Air Quality (1996/62/EC), four air quality zones have been defined in Ireland for air quality management and assessment purposes<sup>(11)</sup>. Dublin is defined as Zone A and Cork as Zone B. Zone C is composed of 23 towns with a population of greater than 15,000. The remainder of the country which represents rural Ireland but also includes all towns with a population of less than 15,000 is defined as Zone D. In terms of air monitoring, Askeaton is categorised as Zone D<sup>(11)</sup>.

#### *PM<sup>10</sup>*



Long-term  $PM_{10}$  monitoring was carried out at the Zone D locations of Castlebar, Claremorris, Enniscorthy and  $\frac{1}{N}$  is in 2015. The PM<sub>10</sub> annual averages for these four locations in 2015 ranged from  $\mathcal{D}$  2 to 18 µg/m<sup>3(11)</sup>. The PM<sub>10</sub> annual average in 2015 for the rural Zone D location of Kilkitt was 9.2  $\mu$ g/m<sup>3(11)</sup>. In addition, data from the Phoenix Park provides a good indication of urban background levels, with an annual average in 2015 of 12  $\mu$ g/m<sup>3(11)</sup>. Based on the above information, a conservative estimate of the background  $PM_{10}$  concentration for Askeaton of 10  $\mu$ g/m<sup>3</sup> has been used. In relation to the maximum 24-hour averaging period, real monitoring data for Kilkitt for 2015 (90<sup>tho</sup>%ile of 18.0  $\mu$ g/m<sup>3</sup>) was employed using the methodology outlined in Appendix E of AG4 $^{(2)}$ . A summary of the average short-term and annual mean PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations at Zone D locations is shown in Tables 2 and 3. With a population of less<br>Forming was caregotised<br>toring was carried out a<br>hy and Kilkitt in 2015. The d from 9.2 to 18  $\mu$ g/m<sup>3(1</sup>)<br>ocation of Kilkitt was 9.2<br>a good indication of urb one B. Zone C is composed of<br>the remainder of the country which with a population of less than 15.<br>Askeaton is categorised as Zone<br>oring was carried out at the Zony and Kilkitt in 2015. The PM<sub>10</sub> and trom 3:2 to 18 µg/m<sup></sup>

In relation to the annual averages, the ambient background concentration was added directly to the process concentration. However, in relation to the short-term peak concentration, concentrations due to emissions from elevated sources cannot be combined in the same way. Guidance from the UK DEFRA $(13)$  and EPA $(2)$  advises that for  $PM_{10}$  an estimate of the maximum combined pollutant concentration can be obtained as shown on the following page:

**PM**<sub>10</sub> - The 90.4<sup>th</sup>%ile of total 24-hour mean PM<sub>10</sub> is equal to the maximum of either A or B below:

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- a) 90.4<sup>th</sup>%ile of 24-hour mean background  $PM_{10}$  + annual mean process contribution  $PM_{10}$
- b) 90.4<sup>th</sup>%ile 24-hour mean process contribution PM<sub>10</sub> + annual mean background PM<sub>10</sub>

*PM2.5*

The results of  $PM_{2.5}$  monitoring at the Zone D location of Claremorris in 2015<sup>(11)</sup> indicated an average  $PM_{2.5}/PM_{10}$  ratio of 0.6. Based on this information, a conservative ratio of 0.65 was used to generate a background  $PM_{2.5}$  concentration of 6.5  $\mu$ g/m<sup>3</sup>.

Year	<b>Claremorris</b>	<b>Kilkitt</b>	<b>Shannon Town</b>	<b>Castlebar</b>
2012	-77	15.9	23.1	19.8
2013		18.6		26.9
2014	9.5	15.4	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	21.4
2015	10.2	18.0	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	22.
Average	14.6	7.0	23.1	22.7

**Table 2** 90<sup>th</sup>%ile of 24-Hour PM<sub>10</sub> Concentrations In Zone D Locations 2012 - 2015 ( $\mu$ g/m<sup>3</sup>)



**Table 3** Annual Mean PM<sub>10</sub> Concentrations ln **Z**one D Locations 2010 - 2013 (μg/m<sup>3</sup>)

# **2.3 Air Dispersion Modelling Methodology**

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) approved AERMOD dispersion model has been used to predict the ground level concentrations (GLC) of compounds emitted from the principal emission sources on-site.

The modelling incorporated the following features:

- Three receptor grids were created at which concentrations would be modelled. Receptors were mapped with sufficient resolution to ensure all localised "hotspots" were identified without adding unduly to processing time. The receptor grids were based on Cartesian grids with the site at the centre. An outer grid extended to 20,000m<sup>2</sup> with the site at the centre and with concentrations calculated at 500m intervals. A middle grid extended to  $5.000m<sup>2</sup>$  with the site at the centre and with concentrations calculated at 100m intervals. A smaller denser grid extended to 1250m from the site with concentrations calculated at 25m intervals. Boundary receptor locations were also placed along the boundary of the site, at 20m intervals, giving a total of 14,368 calculation points for the model as shown in Figure 2 (outer, middle and boundary receptors shown for ease of viewing).
- All on-site buildings and significant process structures were mapped into the computer to create a three dimensional visualisation of the site and its emission

points. Buildings and process structures can influence the passage of airflow over the emission stacks and draw plumes down towards the ground (termed building downwash). The stacks themselves can influence airflow in the same way as buildings by causing low pressure regions behind them (termed stack tip downwash). Both building and stack tip downwash were incorporated into the modelling.

- Detailed terrain has been mapped into the model using SRTM data with 30m resolution. The site is located in gentle terrain. All terrain features have been mapped in detail into the model using the terrain pre-processor AERMAP<sup>(14)</sup> as shown in Figure 3.
- Hourly-sequenced meteorological information has been used in the model. Meteorological data over a five year period (Shannon Airport, 2012 – 2016) was used in the model (see Figure 4 and Appendix III).
- The source and emission data, including stack dimensions, gas volumes and emission temperatures have been incorporated into the model.





#### **2.4 Terrain**

The AERMOD air dispersion model has a terrain pre-processor AERMAP<sup>(14)</sup> which was used to map the physical environment in detail over the receptor grid. The digital terrain input data used in the AERMAP pre-processor was obtained from SRTM. This data was run to obtain for each receptor point the terrain height and the terrain height scale. The terrain height scale is used in AERMOD to calculate the critical dividing streamline height, H<sub>crit</sub>, for each receptor. The terrain height scale is derived from the Digital Elevation Model (DEM) files in AERMAP by computing the relief height of the DEM point relative to the height of the receptor and determining the slope. If the slope is less than 10%, the program goes to the next DEM point. If the slope is 10% or greater, the controlling hill height is updated if it is higher than the stored hill height.

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In areas of complex terrain, AERMOD models the impact of terrain using the concept of the dividing streamline  $(H_c)$ . As outlined in the AERMOD model formulation<sup>(1)</sup> a plume embedded in the flow below  $H_c$  tends to remain horizontal; it might go around the hill or impact on it. A plume above  $H_c$  will ride over the hill. Associated with this is a tendency for the plume to be depressed toward the terrain surface, for the flow to speed up, and for vertical turbulent intensities to increase.

AERMOD model formulation states that the model "captures the effect of flow above and below the dividing streamline by weighting the plume concentration associated with two possible extreme states of the boundary layer (horizontal plume and terrainfollowing). The relative weighting of the two states depends on: 1) the degree of atmospheric stability; 2) the wind speed; and  $\mathcal{S}$  the plume height relative to terrain. In stable conditions, the horizontal plume "dominates" and is given greater weight while in neutral and unstable conditions, the plume traveling over the terrain is more heavily weighted"<sup>(2)</sup>. weighted"<sup>(2)</sup>. For inspection purposes of the boundary layer<br>
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The terrain in the region of the facility is complex in the sense that the maximum terrain in the modelling domain peaks  $\frac{d}{dx}$  230m which is above the stack top of all emission points onsite. However, in general, as shown in Figure 3, the region of the site has gently sloping terrain particularly in the immediate vicinity of the facility.

#### **2.5 Meteorological Data**

The selection of the appropriate meteorological data has followed the guidance issued by the USEPA $<sup>(4)</sup>$ . A primary requirement is that the data used should have a data</sup> capture of greater than 90% for all parameters. Shannon Airport meteorological station, which is located approximately 11 km north-east of the site, collects data in the correct format and has a data collection of greater than 90%. Long-term hourly observations at Shannon Airport meteorological station provide an indication of the prevailing wind conditions for the region (see Figure 4 and Appendix III). Results indicate that the prevailing wind direction is from south-easterly to westerly in direction over the period 2012 - 2016. The mean wind speed is approximately 4.7 m/s over the period 1981-2010. Calm conditions account for only a small fraction of the time in any one year peaking at 80 hours in 2014 (0.9% of the time). There are also no missing hours over the period 2012 – 2016.





#### **2.6 Geophysical Considerations**

AERMOD simulates the dispersion process using planetary boundary layer (PBL) scaling theory<sup>(1)</sup>. PBL depth and the dispersion of pollutants within this layer are influenced by specific surface characteristics such as surface roughness, albedo and the availability of surface moisture. Surface roughness is a measure of the aerodynamic roughness of the surface and is related to the height of the roughness element. Albedo is a measure of the reflectivity of the surface whilst the Bowen ratio is a measure of the availability of surface moisture.

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AERMOD incorporates a meteorological pre-processor AERMET<sup>(15)</sup> to enable the calculation of the appropriate parameters. The AERMET meteorological preprocessor requires the input of surface characteristics, including surface roughness  $(z_0)$ , Bowen Ratio and albedo by sector and season, as well as hourly observations of wind speed, wind direction, cloud cover, and temperature. The values of albedo, Bowen Ratio and surface roughness depend on land-use type (e.g., urban, cultivated land etc) and vary with seasons and wind direction. The assessment of appropriate land-use type was carried out to a distance of 10km from the meteorological station for Bowen Ratio and albedo and to a distance of 1km for surface roughness in line with USEPA recommendations(15,16) as outlined in Appendix II.

In relation to AERMOD, detailed guidance for calculating the relevant surface parameters has been published<sup>(17)</sup>. The most pertinent features are:

- The surface characteristics should be those of the meteorological site (Shannon Airport) rather than the installation;  $\sqrt[6]{x^6}$
- Surface roughness should use a default 1km radius upwind of the meteorological tower and should be based on an inverse-distance weighted geometric mean. If land use varies around the site, the land use should be subdivided by sectors with a minimum sector size of  $30^\circ$ ; aracteristics should be the<br>han the installation:<br>mess should use  $8^{\circ}$ <br>tower and should be based tower and should be based<br>in. If land use varies arou<br>ors with a minimum section of the plan weighted geople on the weight ublished<sup>(17)</sup>. The most perting of the ublished<sup>(17)</sup>. The most perting of the variate rist and the installation;  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$  default tower and should use varies around the sit of the sit of the sit of the sit o
- Bowen ratio and albedoshould be based on a 10km grid. The Bowen ratio should be based on an un-weighted geometric mean. The albedo should be based on a simple on-weighted arithmetic mean.

AERMOD has an associated pre-processor, AERSURFACE<sup>(16)</sup>, which has representative values for these parameters depending on land use type. The AERSURFACE pre-processor currently only accepts NLCD92 land use data which covers the USA. Thus, manual input of surface parameters is necessary when modelling in Ireland. Ordnance survey discovery maps (1:50,000) and digital maps such as those provided by the EPA, National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and Google Earth® are useful in determining the relevant land use in the region of the meteorological station. The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation has issued a guidance note for the manual calculation of geometric mean for surface roughness and Bowen ratio for use in  $AERMET^{(17)}$ . This approach has been applied to the current site with full details provided in Appendix II.

#### **2.7 Building Downwash**

When modelling emissions from an industrial installation, stacks which are relatively short can be subjected to additional turbulence due to the presence of nearby buildings. Buildings are considered nearby if they are within five times the lesser of the building height or maximum projected building width (but not greater than 800m).

The USEPA has defined the "Good Engineering Practice" (GEP) stack height as the building height plus 1.5 times the lesser of the building height or maximum projected

building width. It is generally considered unlikely that building downwash will occur when stacks are at or greater than  $\text{GEP}^{(18)}$ .

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When stacks are less than this height, building downwash will tend to occur. As the wind approaches a building it is forced upwards and around the building leading to the formation of turbulent eddies. In the lee of the building these eddies will lead to downward mixing (reduced plume centreline and reduced plume rise) and the creation of a cavity zone (near wake) where re-circulation of the air can occur. Plumes released from short stacks may be entrained in this airflow leading to higher ground level concentrations than in the absence of the building.

The Plume Rise Model Enhancements (PRIME)<sup>(8,9)</sup> plume rise and building downwash algorithms, which calculates the impact of buildings on plume rise and dispersion, have been incorporated into AERMOD. The building input processor BPIP-PRIME produces the parameters which are required in order to run PRIME. The model takes into account the position of each stack relative to each relevant building and the projected shape of each building for 36 wind directions (at 10º intervals). The model determines the change in plume centreline location with downwind distance based on the slope of the mean streamlines and coupled to a numerical plume rise model<sup>(9)</sup>.

Given that most stacks onsite are less than 2.5 times the lesser of the building height or maximum projected building width, building downwash will need to be taken into account and the PRIME algorithm run prior to modelling with AERMOD. Shown in Figure 5 is an example of the dominant building  $\frac{1}{10}$  blue) which is influencing the building downwash for stack A2-3. The dominant building may change as the wind direction changes for each of the 36 wind directions. The dominant building for each relevant stack will vary as a function of wind direction and relative building heights. For algorithm run prior to modelling<br>IE algorithm run prior to modelling<br>le of the dominant buildings (in b<br>stack A2-3. The dominant build<br>ach of the 36 wind directions. Th<br>as a function of wind direction an<br>expression of



#### **2.8 Process Emissions**

Nestle Askeaton are currently licensed (IED Licence number P0395-03) to operate 11 major emission points (A1-1, A1-2, A1-3, A1-4, A2-7, A2-1, A2-2, A2-3, A2-4, A2-5 and A2-6). Of these, six emission points (A2-1, A2-2, A2-3, A2-4, A2-5 and A2-6) are licenced to emit Total Particulates.

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Nestle Askeaton intend to apply for a Technical Amendment which will be required due, in part, to the installation of one new emission points on-site (A2-8) and the decommissioning of two emission points (A2-2 and A2-5). Thus, the future relevant Total Particulate emission points will be A2-1, A2-3, A2-4, A2-6 and A2-8.

The information used in the dispersion model for the existing and proposed emission points is shown in Tables 4 and 5.



**Table 4** Stack Release Points Used in The Air Modelling

The facility currently operates the six existing particulate emission points for differing frequencies over the course of the year. As shown in Table 6, the hours of operation for each of the six existing emission point has varied from a minimum of 677 hours per year for A2-1 in 2016 to a maximum of 5,743 hours per year for A2-4 in 2015. As shown in Table 6, conservative hours of operation have been selected for each emission point which reflects the maximum hours of operation that has been experienced over the last five years.



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Note 1 Concentrations and mass emissions are licenced as Total Particulates. As a worst-case it is assumed that all particulate matter released from the facility is firstly less than 10 microns when comparing to the PM<sub>10</sub> ambient limit values and secondly less then 2.5 microns when comparing to the PM<sub>2.5</sub> ambient limit value.

**Table 5** Nestle Askeaton Facility, Askeaton, Co. Limerick. Stack Emission Details for PM<sub>0</sub>  $\sqrt{\text{P}}\text{M}_{2.5}$ . **Pulled** 



Note 1 A2-2 and A2-5 hours of operation are historical averages.

Note 2 Each emission point was modelled such that all emissions occurred as a minimum between the hours of 08:00 - 16:00 with additional hours added to the emission points which operated greater than this period.

**Table 6** Nestle Askeaton Facility, Askeaton, Co. Limerick. Modelled and Actual Hours Of Operation

#### **3.0 RESULTS & DISCUSSION**

#### **3.1 Process Contributions - Existing Scenario**

Ambient Ground Level Concentrations (GLCs) of  $PM_{10}$  /  $PM_{2.5}$  have been predicted below in Tables 7 – 8 for the existing scenario.

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#### PM<sup>10</sup> / PM2.5 Emissions

The  $PM_{10}$  /  $PM_{2.5}$  modelling results are detailed in Table 7 and Table 8. The results indicate that the ambient ground level concentration is below the relevant air quality standard for  $PM_{10}$  /  $PM_{2.5}$ . Emissions from the facility lead to an ambient  $PM_{10}$ concentration (including background) which is 86% of the maximum ambient 24-hour limit value at the worst-case receptor (see Table 7 and Figure 6). In relation to the annual mean concentration, ambient  $PM_{10}$  /  $PM_{2.5}$  concentration (including background) are at most 58% of the annual mean limit values at the worst-case receptor (Figure 7 and Tables 7 and 8).



Note 1 Air Quality Standards 2011 (from EU Directive 2008/50/EC)

Short-term Environmental Concentrations calculated according to UK DEFRA guidance<sup>(17)</sup> based on the maximum background 24-hr mean (as a  $90<sup>th</sup>%$ ile) of 18.0  $\mu$ g/m<sup>3</sup> (based on Kilkitt)

**Table 7** Dispersion Model Results – PM<sub>10</sub> (Existing Scenario)



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Note 1 Air Quality Standards 2011 (from EU Directive 2008/50/EC) *Table 8* Dispersion Model Results – PM2.5 (Existing Scenario)

#### **3.2 Process Contributions - Proposed Scenario**

Ambient Ground Level Concentrations (GLCs) of  $PM_{10}$  / PM<sub>2.5</sub> have been predicted below in Tables 9 – 10 for the proposed scenario.

#### PM<sup>10</sup> / PM2.5 Emissions

The PM<sub>10</sub> / PM<sub>2.5</sub> modelling results are detailed in Table 9 and Table 10. The results indicate that the ambient ground level concentration is below the relevant air quality standard for PM<sub>10</sub> / PM<sub>2.5</sub>. Emissions from the facility lead to an ambient PM<sub>10</sub> concentration (including background) which is 73% of the maximum ambient 24-hour limit value at the worst-case receptor (see Table 9 and Figure 8). In relation to the annual mean concentration, ambient  $PM_{10}$  /  $PM_{2.5}$  concentration (including background) are at most 50% of the annual mean limit values at the worst-case receptor (Figure 9 and Tables 9 and 10). For inspection (GLCs) of  $RM_{10}$ <br>for the proposed scenario and the proposed scenario and the second to consent of consent



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Note 1 Air Quality Standards 2011 (from EU Directive 2008/50/EC)

Short-term Environmental Concentrations calculated according to UK DEFRA guidance<sup>(17)</sup> based on the maximum background 24-hr mean (as a 90<sup>thok</sup>ile) of 18.0  $\mu$ g/m<sup>3</sup> (based on Kilkitt)

**Table 9** Dispersion Model Results – PM<sub>10</sub> (Proposed Scenario)





Note 1 Air Quality Standards 2011 (from EU Directive 2008/50/EC)

*Table 10* Dispersion Model Results – PM2.5 (Proposed Scenario)

#### **3.3 Process Contributions - Comparison Of Existing & Proposed Scenarios**

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Comparing the results of the existing and proposed modelling scenarios shows that the impact of the proposed removal of main emission points A2-2 and A2-5 and the introduction of main emission point A2-8 is to decrease the predicted ambient air quality for all averaging periods and for both  $PM_{10}$  and  $PM_{2.5}$ .

As shown in Figure 10, the benefit of the proposed changes to licenced emission points is to decrease ambient levels of  $PM_{10}$  by as mcuh as 13% of the ambient limit value whilst PM<sub>2.5</sub> ambient levels will decrease by up 10% of the ambient limit value.

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#### **3.4 Assessment Summary**

The results indicate that the ambient ground level concentrations are below the relevant air quality standards for  $PM_{10}$  /  $PM_{2.5}$  for the existing scenario. Emissions from the facility lead to an ambient  $PM_{10}$  concentration (including background) which is 86% of the maximum ambient 24-hour limit value at the worst-case receptor. In relation to the annual mean concentration, ambient  $PM_{10}$  /  $PM_{2.5}$  concentration (including background) are at most 58% of the annual mean limit values at the worst-case receptor.

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The results also indicate that the ambient ground level concentrations are below the relevant air quality standards for  $PM_{10}$  /  $PM_{2.5}$  for the proposed scenario. Emissions from the facility lead to an ambient  $PM_{10}$  concentration (including background) which is 73% of the maximum ambient 24-hour limit value at the worst-case receptor. In relation to the annual mean concentration, ambient  $PM_{10}$  /  $PM_{2.5}$  concentration (including background) are at most 50% of the annual mean limit values at the worstcase receptor.

Comparing the results of the existing and proposed modelling scenarios shows that the impact of the proposed removal of main emission points A2-2 and A2-5 and the introduction of main emission point A2-8 is to decrease the predicted ambient air concentrations for all averaging periods and for both  $PM_{10}$  and  $PM_{2.5}$ . The benefit of the proposed changes to licenced emission points is to decrease ambient levels of  $PM_{10}$ by as much as 13% of the ambient limit value whilst PM<sub>2.5</sub> ambient levels will decrease<br>by up 10% of the ambient limit value. by up 10% of the ambient limit value. For inspection purposes only to licenced emission points is to determine the ambient limit value.<br>
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In summary, all emissions from the facility under normal operations of the facility will be in compliance with the ambient air quality standards whilst the proposed changes to the licenced emission points will further reduced environmental concentrations.

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#### **APPENDIX I**

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#### **Description of the AERMOD Model**

The AERMOD dispersion model has been developed in part by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)<sup>(1,4)</sup>. The model is a steady-state Gaussian model used to assess pollutant concentrations associated with industrial sources. The model is an enhancement on the Industrial Source Complex-Short Term 3 (ISCST3) model which has been widely used for emissions from industrial sources.

Improvements over the ISCST3 model include the treatment of the vertical distribution of concentration within the plume. ISCST3 assumes a Gaussian distribution in both the horizontal and vertical direction under all weather conditions. AERMOD with PRIME, however, treats the vertical distribution as non-Gaussian under convective (unstable) conditions while maintaining a Gaussian distribution in both the horizontal and vertical direction during stable conditions. This treatment reflects the fact that the plume is skewed upwards under convective conditions due to the greater intensity of turbulence above the plume than below. The result is a more accurate portrayal of actual conditions using the AERMOD model. AERMOD also enhances the turbulence of night-time urban boundary layers thus simulating the influence of the urban heat island.

In contrast to ISCST3, AERMOD is widely applicable in all types of terrain. Differentiation of the simple versus complex terrain is unnecessary with AERMOD. In complex terrain, AERMOD employs the dividing-streamline concept in a simplified simulation of the effects of plume-terrain interactions. In the dividing-streamline concept, flow below this height remains horizontal, and flow above this height tends to rise up and over terrain. Extensive validation studies have found that AERMOD (precursor to AERMOD with PRIME) performs better than ISCST3 for many applications and as well or better than CTDMPLUS for several complex terrain data sets<sup>(8)</sup>. the dividing-streamline is<br>s height tends to rise up<br>MOD (precursor to AERM<br>s and as well of Better t<br>and as well of Better the<br>nding buildings, the PRIM<br>nas been incorporated in<br>ngs on dispersion in ea Conserved in the AEF<br>
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Due to the proximity to surrounding buildings, the PRIME (Plume Rise Model Enhancements) building downwash algorithm has been incorporated into the model to determine the influence (wake effects) of these buildings on dispersion in each direction considered. The PRIME algorithm takes into account the position of the stack relative to the building in calculating building downwash. In the absence of the building, the plume from the stack will rise due to momentum and/or buoyancy forces. Wind streamlines act on the plume leads to the bending over of the plume as it disperses. However, due to the presence of the building, wind streamlines are disrupted leading to a lowering of the plume centreline.

When there are multiple buildings, the building tier leading to the largest cavity height is used to determine building downwash. The cavity height calculation is an empirical formula based on building height, the length scale (which is a factor of building height & width) and the cavity length (which is based on building width, length and height). As the direction of the wind will lead to the identification of differing dominant tiers, calculations are carried out in intervals of 10 degrees.

In PRIME, the nature of the wind streamline disruption as it passes over the dominant building tier is a function of the exact dimensions of the building and the angle at which the wind approaches the building. Once the streamline encounters the zone of influence of the building, two forces act on the plume. Firstly, the disruption caused by the building leads to increased turbulence and enhances horizontal and vertical dispersion. Secondly, the streamline descends in the lee of the building due to the reduced pressure and drags the plume (or part of) nearer to the ground, leading to higher ground level concentrations. The model calculates the descent of the plume as a function of the building shape and, using a numerical plume rise model, calculates the change in the plume centreline location with distance downwind.

The immediate zone in the lee of the building is termed the cavity or near wake and is characterised by high intensity turbulence and an area of uniform low pressure. Plume mass captured by the cavity region is re-emitted to the far wake as a ground-level volume source. The volume source is located at the base of the lee wall of the building, but is only evaluated near the end of the near wake and beyond. In this region, the disruption caused by the building downwash gradually fades with distance to ambient values downwind of the building.

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AERMOD has made substantial improvements in the area of plume growth rates in comparison to ISCST3<sup>(1,3)</sup>. ISCST3 approximates turbulence using six Pasquill-Gifford-Turner Stability Classes and bases the resulting dispersion curves upon surface release experiments. This treatment, however, cannot explicitly account for turbulence in the formulation. AERMOD is based on the more realistic modern planetary boundary layer (PBL) theory which allows turbulence to vary with height. This use of turbulence-based plume growth with height leads to a substantial advancement over the ISCST3 treatment.

Improvements have also been made in relation to mixing height $(1,3)$ . The treatment of mixing height by ISCST3 is based on a single morning upper air sounding each day. AERMOD, however, calculates mixing height on an hourly basis based on the morning upper air sounding and the surface energy balance, accounting for the solar radiation, cloud cover, reflectivity of the ground and the latent heat due to evaporation from the ground cover. This more advanced formulation provides a more realistic sequence of the diurnal mixing height changes.

AERMOD also has the capability of modelling both unstable (convective) conditions and stable (inversion) conditions. The stability of the atmosphere is defined by the sign of the sensible heat flux. Where the sensible heat flux is positive, the atmosphere is unstable whereas when the sensible heat flux is negative the atmosphere is defined as stable. The sensible heat flux is dependent on the net radiation and the available surface moisture (Bowen Ratio). Under stable (inversion) conditions, AERMOD has specific algorithms to account for plume rise under stable conditions, mechanical mixing heights under stable conditions and vertical and lateral dispersion in the stable boundary layer. spectrum in the sensible heat flux is positive, the armosphere is unstable<br>the sensible heat flux is negative the atmosphere is defined as stable. The se<br>is dependent on the net radiation and the available surface moisture ty of modelling both unstable (consenting both unstable (consenting ability of the atmosphere is defined as stion and the available surface model and the available surface model and the available surface model and mixing h

AERMOD also contains improved algorithms for dealing with low wind speed (near calm) conditions. As a result, AERMOD can produce model estimates for conditions when the wind

#### **APPENDIX II**

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#### **Meteorological Data - AERMET**

AERMOD incorporates a meteorological pre-processor AERMET (version 16216)<sup>(15)</sup>. AERMET allows AERMOD to account for changes in the plume behaviour with height. AERMET calculates hourly boundary layer parameters for use by AERMOD, including friction velocity, Monin-Obukhov length, convective velocity scale, convective (CBL) and stable boundary layer (SBL) height and surface heat flux. AERMOD uses this information to calculate concentrations in a manner that accounts for changes in dispersion rate with height, allows for a non-Gaussian plume in convective conditions, and accounts for a dispersion rate that is a continuous function of meteorology.

The AERMET meteorological preprocessor requires the input of surface characteristics, including surface roughness  $(z<sub>0</sub>)$ , Bowen Ratio and albedo by sector and season, as well as hourly observations of wind speed, wind direction, cloud cover, and temperature. A morning sounding from a representative upper air station, latitude, longitude, time zone, and wind speed threshold are also required.

Two files are produced by AERMET for input to the AERMOD dispersion model. The surface file contains observed and calculated surface variables, one record per hour. The profile file contains the observations made at each level of a meteorological tower, if available, or the one-level observations taken from other representative data. one record level per hour.

From the surface characteristics (i.e. surface roughiness, albedo and amount of moisture available (Bowen Ratio)) AERMET calculates several boundary layer parameters that are important in the evolution of the boundary laye available (Bowen Ratio)) AERMET calculates several boundary layer parameters that are important in the evolution of the boundary layer, which, in turn, influences the dispersion of pollutants. These parameters include the surface friction velocity, which is a measure of the vertical transport of horizontal momentum; the sensible heat flux, which is the vertical transport of heat to/from the surface; the Monin-Obukhov length which is a stability parameter relating the surface friction velocity to the sensible heat flux; the daytime mixed layer height; the nocturnal surface layer height and the convective velocity scale which combines the daytime mixed layer height and the sensible heat flux. These parameters all depend on the underlying surface. surface. The conservative data, on<br>tics (i.e. surface roughiness, albeits<br>ics (i.e. surface roughiness, albeither<br>calculates several boundar<br>ne boundary layer, which, in turn<br>include the surface friction velocity<br>momentum: the sens

The values of albedo, Bowen Ratio and surface roughness depend on land-use type (e.g., urban, cultivated land etc) and vary with seasons and wind direction. The assessment of appropriate land-use types was carried out in line with USEPA recommendations<sup>(4)</sup> and using the detailed methodology outlined by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation<sup>(17)</sup>. AERMET has also been updated to allow for an adjustment of the surface friction velocity (u\*) for low wind speed stable conditions based on the work of Qian and Venkatram (BLM, 2011). Previously, the model had a tendency to over-predict concentrations produced by near-ground sources in stable conditions.

#### Surface roughness

Surface roughness length is the height above the ground at which the wind speed goes to zero. Surface roughness length is defined by the individual elements on the landscape such as trees and buildings. In order to determine surface roughness length, the USEPA recommends that a representative length be defined for each sector, based on an upwind area-weighted average of the land use within the sector, by using the eight land use categories outlined by the USEPA. The inverse-distance weighted surface roughness length derived from the land use classification within a radius of 1km from Shannon Airport Meteorological Station is shown in Table A1.



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(1) Winter defined as periods when surfaces covered permanently by snow whereas autumn is defined as periods when freezing conditions are common, deciduous trees are leafless and no snow is present (Iqbal (1983))<sup>(19)</sup>. Thus for the current location autumn more accurately defines "winter" conditions in Ireland.

**Table A1** Surface Roughness based on an inverse distance weighted average of the land use within a 1km radius of Shannon Airport Meteorological Station.

#### Albedo

Noon-time albedo is the fraction of the incoming solar radiation that is reflected from the ground when the sun is directly overhead. Albedo is used in calculating the hourly net heat balance at the surface for calculating hourly values of Monin-Obuklov length. A 10km x 10km square area is drawn around the meteorological station to determine the albedo based on a simple average for the land use types within the area independent of both distance from the station and the near-field sector. The classification within 10km from Shannon Airport Meteorological Station is shown in Table A2.



 $(1)$  For the current location autumn more accurately defines "winter" conditions in Ireland.

*Table A2* Albedo based on a simple average of the land use within a 10km × 10km grid centred on Shannon Airport Meteorological Station.<br>Bowen Ratio Airport Meteorological Station. For oxing the really

#### Bowen Ratio

The Bowen ratio is a measure of the amount of moisture at the surface of the earth. The presence of moisture affects the heat balance resulting from evaporative cooling which, in turn, affects the Monin-Obukhov length which is used in the formulation of the boundary layer. A 10km x 10km square area is drawn around the meteorological station to determine the Bowen Ratio based on geometric mean of the land use types within the area independent of both distance from the station and the near-field sector. The classification within 10km from Shannon Airport Meteorological Station is shown in Table A3. Conserved of the series winter and the head balance resulting from the head balance resulting



 $(1)$  For the current location autumn more accurately defines "winter" conditions in Ireland.

**Table A3** Bowen Ratio based on a geometric mean of the land use within a 10km x 10km grid centred on Shannon Airport Meteorological Station.

### **APPENDIX III**

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## **Detailed Meteorological Data – Shannon Airport 2012 - 2016**

#### **Shannon Airport 2012**



#### **Shannon Airport 2013**





#### **Shannon Airport 2014**



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#### **Shannon Airport 2015**



#### **Shannon Airport 2016**



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