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Forge Hill
Recycling

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Section 87(3) of EPA Act 1992 as amended in respect of licence application from Forge Hill Recycling Unlimited Company for an installation located at Forge Hill Recycling Unlimited Company, Forge Hill Waste Transfer Station, Forge Hill, Cork.

The current planning permission and Waste Licence limits the annual waste intake to 82,000 tonnes. In May 2018 FHR applied to Cork County Council for planning permission to increase the intake to 100,000 tonnes per annum and this was granted in October 2018.

On 26th June 2018 FHR submitted an application to the Agency for a revised Waste Licence. The application is relatively straightforward and the only change to the activities authorised under the current licence, which was issued in August 2017, was the increased waste intake. This would not result in any new emissions or changes to nature of the existing emissions.

In August 2018 the Agency informed FHR that, as the review incorporated an activity that was the subject of the Industrial Emissions Directive (SRF manufacture), the application should have been for an IE licence and not a revised Waste Licence.



FHR met with the Agency to discuss the application and the Agency acknowledged that the web based application system was not designed to accommodate a review of an existing Waste Licence that would also include for IE activities and therefore a new application for an IE licence was required

The new application was submitted on the 17th September 2018. On 11th October 2018 the Agency informed FHR that the application was incomplete due to the fact that the IE activity was not identified as the 'main activity' and that a new application was required

FHR queried this decision as the proposed IE activity comprised approximately 20% of the overall waste activities and that there was nothing in the Waste and IE Licensing Regulations that stipulated that an IE activity must be classed as the main activity regardless of the scale.

The Agency did not alter its position that a new application was required; however due to upgrades to the Agency's web based application system FHR had to wait until 5th November to resubmit the application.

On 20th December 2018 the Agency requested an extension of the period to make a determination to the 8th May 2019. FHR consented to this solely on the basis that it was a commercial imperative that the proposed decision be made by that date.

The December 2018 request for deferral has been the only communication received by FHR from the Agency until the second request for an extension of the decision to the 7th September 2019 was received on the 8th May 2019. In the absence of any further communications FHR is not aware of how far the Agency has progressed the application.

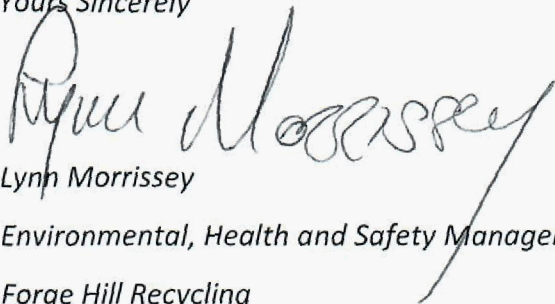
The application to increase the annual waste acceptance rate to 100,000 tonnes was made in response to the clear need for increased recycling capacity to meet FHR's customer requirements and the recycling targets set in the Southern Region Waste Management Plan.

Based on the grant of planning permission and in the expectation that a proposed decision on the licence application would issue on the 8th May 2019, with the final decision following on 7th June, FHR commenced the construction of the new intake reception building and the target completion date is early June 2019. FHR has also upgraded the processing plant to provide the required additional capacity.

At the current processing rates it is likely that the current annual waste acceptance limit of 82,000 tonnes will be exceeded by the end of-September 2018. If the licence has not been granted by that date, the choices facing FHR will be either to continue to operate and exceed the annual acceptance limits set in the current licence, or cease operation, lay off staff and mothball the site until such time as the licence is issued, which has very significant commercial implications.

In the context of the above and in the absence of any information on the current status of the application FHR does not consent to a further extension of the period by which a proposed decision must be made and expects the Agency to process the application in accordance with Section 87(3) of the 1992 Act.

Yours Sincerely



Lynn Morrissey
Environmental, Health and Safety Manager
Forge Hill Recycling