

HEADQUARTERS  
JOHNSTOWN CASTLE ESTATE  
COUNTY WEXFORD, IRELAND  
PHONE: +353-53-9160600  
FAX: +353-53-9160699

**WASTE MANAGEMENT (CERTIFICATION OF HISTORIC UNLICENCED  
WASTE DISPOSAL AND RECOVERY ACTIVITY) REGULATIONS 2008**

**HISTORIC LANDFILL**

**DRAFT CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORISATION**

Proposed Decision of Agency, under Regulation 7(5) of the Waste Management  
(Certification of Historic Unlicensed Waste Disposal and Recovery Activity) Regulations  
2008

Reference Number: H0020-01

In pursuance of the powers conferred on it by the Waste Management (Certification of Historic Unlicensed Waste Disposal and Recovery Activity) Regulations 2008, the Environmental Protection Agency (the Agency) proposes, under Regulation 7(5) of the said Regulations, to grant this Certificate of Authorisation to Cavan County Council, Farnham Street, Cavan, County Cavan in respect of the closed landfill at Cootehill Landfill, Pottleboy, Cootehill, County Cavan, subject to conditions set out in the proposed Certificate of Authorisation.

**REPRESENTATIONS**

The Local Authority may make representations to the proposed decision, in accordance with Regulation 7(5) of the Waste Management (Certification of Historic Unlicensed Waste Disposal and Recovery Activity) Regulations 2008 at any time no later than 5.00pm on 12 March 2020. It is important to note that any representations to a proposed decision must be received by the Agency before the appropriate period expires.

A representation must be made by sending the representation by prepaid post to the Agency, or by leaving the representation with an employee of the Agency at the principal offices of the Agency in Wexford during office hours, i.e. 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday.

A representation against the proposed decision must state in full the grounds of the representation. For the purposes of making a representation, the address of the principal office of the Agency is P.O. Box 3000, Johnstown Castle Estate, County Wexford.

In the event that;

- (a) no representation is taken against the proposed decision or
- (b) a representation taken against the proposed decision is withdrawn,

the decision of the Agency will be in accordance with the proposed decision and will be issued as soon as may be after the appropriate period expires.

A copy of the Proposed Decision is attached.

**Signed on behalf of the Agency:  
On the 12<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2020**

  
**Tara Gillen, Authorised Person**

Headquarters  
P.O. Box 3000  
Johnstown Castle Estate  
County Wexford  
Ireland

## Closed Landfill Draft Certificate of Authorisation

<b>Certificate of Authorisation Number:</b>	H0020-01
<b>Certification of Authorisation Holder:</b>	Cavan County Council
<b>Location of Facility:</b>	Cootehill Landfill Pottleboy Cootehill County Cavan

## Glossary of Terms

All terms in this Certificate of Authorisation should be interpreted in accordance with the definitions in the Waste Management (Certification of Historic Unlicensed Waste Disposal and Recovery Activity) Regulations 2008 (S.I. No. 524 of 2008) unless otherwise defined in the Certificate of Authorisation.

<b>Agency</b>	Environmental Protection Agency.
<b>Agreement</b>	Agreement in writing.
<b>Annually</b>	At approximately twelve-monthly intervals.
<b>Application</b>	The application by the local authority for this Certificate of Authorisation including the risk assessment, any amendments to the risk assessment, additional information received from the local authority and other documents provided by the local authority.
<b>Certificate of Authorisation</b>	Includes this document and the application.
<b>Closed Landfill</b>	As defined in the Waste Management (Certification of Historic Unlicensed Waste Disposal and Recovery Activity) Regulations 2008.
<b>Code of Practice</b>	As defined in the Waste Management (Certification of Historic Unlicensed Waste Disposal and Recovery Activity) Regulations 2008.
<b>Biannually</b>	All or part of a period of six consecutive months.
<b>Documentation</b>	Any report, record, results, data, drawing, proposal, interpretation or other document in written or electronic form which is required by this Certificate of Authorisation.
<b>Drawing</b>	Any reference to a drawing or drawing number means a drawing or drawing number contained in the application, unless otherwise specified in this Certificate of Authorisation.
<b>Environmental Pollution</b>	As defined in the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended.
<b>Incident</b>	<p>The following shall constitute an incident for the purposes of this Certificate of Authorisation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(i) an emergency;</li><li>(ii) any emission which does not comply with the requirements of this Certificate of Authorisation;</li><li>(iii) any trigger level specified in this Certificate of Authorisation which is attained or exceeded; and</li><li>(iv) any indication that environmental pollution has, or may have, taken place.</li></ul>

<b>Inert Waste</b>	Waste that does not undergo any significant physical, chemical or biological transformations. Inert waste will not dissolve, burn or otherwise physically or chemically react, biodegrade or adversely affect other matter with which it comes into contact in a way likely to give rise to environmental pollution or harm human health. The total leachability and pollutant content of the waste and the ecotoxicity of the leachate must be insignificant, and in particular not endanger the quality of surface water and/or groundwater.
<b>Maintain</b>	Keep in a fit state, including such regular inspection, servicing, calibration and repair as may be necessary to perform its function adequately.
<b>Necessary Measures</b>	As defined in the Waste Management (Certification of Historic Unlicensed Waste Disposal and Recovery Activity) Regulations 2008.
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	As defined in the Waste Management (Certification of Historic Unlicensed Waste Disposal and Recovery Activity) Regulations 2008.
<b>Sample</b>	Unless the context of this document indicates to the contrary, the term sample or samples shall include measurements taken by electronic instruments.
<b>Status</b>	As defined in the Water Framework Directive, in relation to surface water and groundwater.
<b>The Local Authority</b>	Cavan County Council, Farnham Street, Cavan, County Cavan.
<b>Trigger Level</b>	A parameter value the achievement or exceedance of which requires certain actions to be taken by the local authority.

## Part I Authorisation of a Closed Landfill

The Environmental Protection Agency (the Agency) proposes to grant, under Regulation 7(5) of the Waste Management (Certification of Historic Unlicensed Waste Disposal and Recovery Activity) Regulations 2008 (the Regulations), this Certificate of Authorisation to Cavan County Council, Farnham Street, Cavan, County Cavan, in respect of the closed landfill at Cootehill Landfill, Pottleboy, Cootehill, County Cavan, subject to conditions set out in Part II and the Reasons for the Decision in Part III.

## Part II Conditions

### Condition 1. Scope

- 1.1 For the purposes of this Certificate of Authorisation, the closed landfill authorised by this Certificate of Authorisation is the area of land outlined in red on Drawing titled 'Lateral Extent of waste deposited on the site' (Drawing No. 14.248.111 dated November 2014) submitted with the application. Any reference in this Certificate of Authorisation to "closed landfill" shall mean the area thus outlined in red.
- 1.2 No waste shall be accepted at the closed landfill.
- 1.3 No waste shall be burned at the closed landfill.
- 1.4 The facility shall be controlled, operated and maintained, and emissions shall take place as authorised by this Certificate of Authorisation. No material change that will result in an increase in the actual or potential nature or quantity of any emission shall be carried out or commenced without the agreement of the Agency.
- 1.5 Nothing in this Certificate of Authorisation shall prohibit authorised beneficial uses of the site of the closed landfill that do not interfere with the integrity of the remediation measures adopted.

<b>Reason:</b> <i>To clarify the scope of this Certificate of Authorisation.</i>
--

## Condition 2. Notifications, Records and Reports

- 2.1 The local authority shall notify the Agency as soon as practicable after the occurrence of any incident. The incident notification shall be provided in a format as may be specified in relevant guidance issued by the Agency.
- 2.2 The local authority shall keep the following documents available for inspection by the Agency at all reasonable times and to members of the public by request:
- 2.2.1 Records of all sampling, analyses, measurements, examinations, calibrations and maintenance;
  - 2.2.2 Records of incidents;
  - 2.2.3 Records of all complaints of an environmental nature;
  - 2.2.4 The validation report prepared on completion of the remediation; and
  - 2.2.5 Other documentation required by this Certificate of Authorisation or as may be otherwise directed by the Agency.
- 2.3 Environmental Liabilities
- The local authority shall put in place and maintain a financial provision for costs of likely events or accidents/incidents related to the closed landfill and associated works.
- 2.4 The local authority shall annually pay to the Agency €1,083, or such sum as the Agency from time to time determines in accordance with charges policy, for the performance of its functions under the Waste Management (Certification of Historic Unlicensed Waste Disposal and Recovery Activity) Regulations 2008 in relation to the closed landfill regulated by this Certificate of Authorisation.

<p><b>Reason:</b> <i>To provide for the collection and reporting of adequate information on the activity. To provide for adequate financing for monitoring and financial provisions for measures to protect the environment.</i></p>
--

### **Condition 3. Management and Monitoring**

#### **3.1 Site Notice Board**

- (a) The local authority shall, within one month of the date of grant of this Certificate of Authorisation, provide a Site Notice Board on the closed landfill site so that it is legible to persons outside the main entrance to the closed landfill site. The minimum dimensions of the board shall be 1200 mm by 750 mm.
- (b) The board shall clearly show:
  - (i) the name of the certificate of authorisation holder;
  - (ii) the name of the closed landfill site;
  - (iii) the certificate of authorisation reference number;
  - (iv) the contact telephone in relation to the remediation works; and
  - (v) where information relating to the closed landfill site can be obtained.

3.2 The local authority shall manage the closed landfill to ensure that no environmental pollution or deterioration in the status of the receiving surface water body or groundwater body is caused.

3.3 The local authority shall, within three months of the date of grant of this certificate of authorisation, install four gas monitoring wells within the footprint of the previously deposited waste body, unless otherwise agreed by the Agency.

3.4 The local authority shall compile a validation report in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Practice. Unless otherwise agreed, the validation report shall be submitted to the Agency within 30 months of the date of grant of this Certificate of Authorisation.

3.5 The local authority shall assess the results of all monitoring carried out to confirm whether the closed landfill continues to achieve the objectives set for it in the risk assessment or this Certificate of Authorisation.

3.6 The local authority shall submit to the Agency, by the 31<sup>st</sup> March of each year, an annual update covering the previous calendar year. This update, which shall be to the satisfaction of the Agency, shall include as a minimum the information specified in Condition 3.7 of this Certificate of Authorisation.

3.7 The local authority shall biannually, or as otherwise prescribed by the Agency, conduct and record:

- (a) a visual inspection of the landfill to ensure that the condition of the site has not deteriorated;
- (b) monitoring for leachate (sample, analyse, characterise, and measure the level of leachate) in all leachate monitoring boreholes;
- (c) monitoring on a quarterly basis to detect the presence and concentration of landfill gas in four on-site monitoring wells;
- (d) Monitoring (sample, analyse and characterise) of water quality in the Pottleboy Stream both upstream and downstream of the closed landfill;



- (e) monitoring (sample, analyse and characterise) of groundwater from at least three groundwater monitoring boreholes, two of which shall be downgradient of the closed landfill;
  - (f) the assessment of monitoring results against trigger levels and/or standard reference values for relevant pollutants including environmental quality standards in the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009, European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010, as amended, and Interim Guideline Values (IGV).
- 3.8 The location, frequency, methods and scope of monitoring, sampling and analyses, as set out in this Certificate of Authorisation, may be amended with the agreement of the Agency following evaluation of test results.
- 3.9 Soil and stone imported for use in remedial, corrective or other engineering works at the closed landfill shall be greenfield soil and stone or soil and stone of equivalent nature and character in terms of chemical and physical contamination.
- Documented acceptance, storage/stockpiling and utilisation procedures shall be operational in advance of receipt of such materials. Records shall be maintained showing the site of origin of the soil and stone and its nature.
- 3.10 No emissions, including odours and noise, from works carried on at the site shall result in an impairment of, or an interference with amenities or the environment beyond the facility boundary or any other legitimate uses of the environment beyond the facility boundary.
- 3.11 The local authority shall ensure that the closed landfill does not result in an impairment of, or an interference with, amenities or the environment at the facility or beyond the facility boundary (including those arising from emissions (including odours, noise, dust, litter and mud), vermin and birds).
- 3.12 Wells and boreholes
- 3.12.1 Groundwater monitoring wells shall be constructed having regard to the guidance given in the Agency's landfill manual "Landfill Monitoring".
  - 3.12.2 All wellheads shall be adequately protected to prevent contamination or physical damage.
  - 3.12.3 All wells & boreholes shall be adequately sealed to prevent surface contamination and, as may be appropriate, decommissioned according to the UK Environment Agency guidelines "Decommissioning Redundant Boreholes and Wells", unless otherwise agreed by the Agency.
- 3.13 The local authority shall clearly label and provide safe and permanent access to all on-site sampling and monitoring points and to off-site points as required by the risk assessment or this Certificate of Authorisation. The requirement with regard to off-site points is subject to the prior agreement of the landowners concerned.

### 3.14 Incidents

In the event of an incident the local authority shall immediately:

- (i) if necessary, contact the emergency services;
- (ii) carry out an investigation to identify the nature, source and cause of the incident and any emission arising therefrom;
- (iii) isolate the source of any such emission;
- (iv) evaluate the environmental pollution, if any, caused by the incident;
- (v) identify and execute measures to minimise the emissions/malfunction and the effects thereof;
- (vi) identify the date, time and place of the incident; and
- (vii) notify the Agency (in accordance with Condition 2.1) and all other relevant authorities including, where relevant, the Water Services Authority and Inland Fisheries Ireland.

### 3.15 Communications Programme

- (i) The certificate of authorisation holder shall establish, maintain and implement a Communications Programme to ensure that members of the public can obtain information from the local authority concerning the closed landfill.
- (ii) The communications programme shall inform members of the public what they can and should do to protect their property and health.
- (iii) The local authority shall, as part of the communications programme, publish groundwater and surface water monitoring data bi-annually in a manner accessible by the public.

## **Part III: Schedules**

### **Schedule 1: Reasons for the Decision**

In proposing to grant this Certificate of Authorisation, the Agency determines that the risk assessment submitted by the local authority as part of the application for a Certificate of Authorisation is adequate. To ensure appropriate protection for human health and the environment and to ensure conformity with the provisions of Council Directive 2008/98/EC and Council Directive 2006/118/EC, the conditions set out in Part II of this Certificate of Authorisation are specified as further necessary measures in addition to those identified by the risk assessment.

The Agency also considers that the activity will not adversely affect the integrity of any European Site and has decided to impose conditions for the purposes of ensuring it does not do so. It has determined that the activity, if managed, operated and controlled in accordance with the Certificate of Authorisation, will not have any adverse effect on the integrity of any of those sites.

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 Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC [Site Code: 000007] and Lough Oughter SPA [Site Code: 004049].

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 cannot 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 required. The reason for this determination is as follows:

- There is hydrological connectivity between the landfill site and surface waters which ultimately discharge into the above European Sites.

The Agency has completed the Appropriate Assessment of potential impacts on these sites and has made certain, based on best scientific knowledge in the field and in accordance with the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 as amended, pursuant to Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, that the activity, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will not adversely affect the integrity of any European Site, in particular Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC [Site Code: 000007] and Lough Oughter SPA [Site Code: 004049], having regard to their conservation objectives and will not affect the preservation of these sites at favourable conservation status if carried out in accordance with the application, risk assessment and this certificate of authorisation and the conditions attached hereto for the following reasons:

- Condition 3.2 on management of the closed landfill aims for prevention of the potential for water pollution and any significant impact on Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC [Site Code: 000007] or Lough Oughter SPA [Site

Code: 004049] and will result in positive impacts to current water quality conditions;

- the project, alone or in-combination with other projects, will not adversely affect the integrity, and conservation status of any of the qualifying interests of Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC [Site Code: 000007] or Lough Oughter SPA [Site Code: 004049];
- also, there are no significant emissions to air from the landfill which could affect the bird species that Lough Oughter SPA [Site Code: 004049] is designated for; and
- Condition 3.5 requires ongoing environmental assessment and monitoring.

The Agency is satisfied that no reasonable scientific doubt remains as to the absence of adverse effects on the integrity of those European Sites: Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC [Site Code: 000007] and Lough Oughter SPA [Site Code: 004049].

#### **Part IV: SIGNATURE**

**Signed on behalf of the said Agency**

On the 12<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2020

  
Tara Gillen, Authorised Person