



ATTACHMENT B.5: PRELIMINARY EIA SCREENING REPORT

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Dripsey Agglomeration – Operational Discharges Preliminary EIA Screening

	Comment:	Yes/No/ Uncertain:
<p>Nature of the Activity <i>Is the nature of the proposed activity exceptional in the context of the existing environment?</i></p> <p><i>Will the activity result in the production of any significant emissions or pollutants?</i></p>	<p>The population equivalent (p.e) to which this application relates is 600 which is significantly below the 10,000 p.e mandatory threshold for EIA.</p> <p>The Dripsey agglomeration is a small catchment area currently serving ca. 420 p.e. with a maximum of design p.e. of 600.</p> <p>The source of the wastewater in the agglomeration is largely domestic in nature which is readily biodegradable. There are no IPC or waste licensed activities discharging to the agglomeration or to the Dripsey River upstream or downstream of the agglomeration.</p> <p>Based on effluent discharge standards and the 2021 WAC calculations carried out for same, it is considered that the operational discharges from the Dripsey agglomeration would have no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment, alone or in combination with other plans and projects.</p>	No
<p>Size of the Activity: <i>Is the size of the activity (i.e., operational discharges) exceptional in the context of the existing environment?</i></p> <p><i>Are there cumulative considerations having regard to other existing and/or permitted projects?</i></p>	<p>The Dripsey agglomeration is a small catchment area currently serving ca. 420 p.e. with a maximum design p.e. of 600.</p> <p>It is considered due to the size of the agglomeration and the associated proposed operational discharges that there would be no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment, alone or in combination with other plans and projects.</p>	No
<p>Location: <i>Is the activity located on, in, adjoining or does it have the potential to impact on an ecologically sensitive site or location?¹</i></p> <p><i>Does the activity have the potential to affect other significant environmental sensitivities in the area?</i></p>	<p>There are no European sites immediately upstream or downstream of the Dripsey WwTP. The nearest European site downstream is the Cork Harbour SPA which is located ca. 30 km downstream of the agglomeration. The Great Channel Island is located ca. 34 km downstream. Due the distance of these sites from the proposed operational discharges and the large dilution capacity of the River Lee (of which the Dripsey River is a tributary) it is considered that there is no likelihood of significant effects from the operation discharges on the Qualifying Interests of these sites (including <i>ex-situ</i> species).</p>	No

¹ Sensitive locations or features includes European sites, NHA/pNHA, Designated Nature Reserves, land designated as a refuge for flora and fauna, and any other ecological site which is the objective of a CDP/LAP (including draft plans).

The nearest European sites to the agglomeration are The Gearagh SAC and The Gearagh SPA located *ca.* 26 km and 27 km upstream of the operational discharges on the River Lee (*i.e.*, upstream of the confluence with the River Dripsey). It is considered that no direct or indirect effects are likely on the species / habitats of The Gearagh SAC or The Gearagh SPA due to the sites distance upstream of the proposed operational discharges.

There are no designated shellfish waters or bathing waters in the downstream vicinity of the discharges.

The Dripsey River is not designated a salmonid waterbody however the Lee River which the Dripsey River flows into, *ca.* 1.5 km downstream, is designated Salmonid. It should be noted that the Dripsey River (below the agglomeration discharge point) has achieved a Q value of 4-5 (High, Unpolluted) status from 2011 to 2020.

There are 10 pNHAs and 1 NHA within 15 km of the WwTP, the closest of which is Glashgarriff River NHA (*ca.* 5.25 km west of the agglomeration). No pathway exists by which the operational discharges could impact upon The Glashgarriff River pNHA as it is upstream of the agglomeration. The Lee Valley pNHA is located *ca.* 6.0 km downstream of the operational discharges at its closest point and comprises a diverse range of riparian semi-natural habitats. None of the habitats it is designated for (*i.e.*, wet broadleaved woodland, freshwater marsh, wet grassland, dry unimproved grassland) are highly sensitive to changes in water quality.

It is considered based on the 2021 WAC of the Dripsey River and the high dilution capabilities of the downstream River Lee that the receiving waterbody has the capacity to accommodate the proposed operational discharges. Therefore, no indirect impacts, *via* water quality impacts, on aquatic ecology or environmental sensitivities are anticipated from the operational discharges.

In terms of location, based on the above it is considered that the operational discharges from the Dripsey agglomeration would have no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment, alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

Preliminary EIA Screening Conclusion:

Based on a preliminary EIA screening examination of the **nature, size or location** of the operational discharges: *(Tick as appropriate)*

<p style="text-align: center;">✓</p> <p>There is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment.</p> <p>EIA is not required.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">☐</p> <p>There is real likelihood of significant effects on the environment.</p> <p>An EIAR is required.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">☐</p> <p>There is significant and realistic doubt regarding the likelihood of significant effects on the environment.</p> <p>Request the applicant to submit the Information specified in Schedule 7A for the purposes of a screening determination.</p> <p>Proceed to Screening Determination.</p>
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Preliminary EIA Screening Summary

The subject matter of this application (*i.e.*, operational discharges from the Dripsey agglomeration) falls well below the threshold of Regulation 17 (i) of S.I No. 214 of 2020 and is not a WwTP specified in accordance with paragraph (6)(c) or (8)(b)(ii) of Regulation 18 or paragraph (3)(c) or (5)(b)(ii) of Regulation 25.

Based on the above, it can be confidently concluded that the subject matter of this application, due to its size, scale, location, and nature, would have no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment, and therefore an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and the production of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) is not required to support this application.

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