

Non-Technical Summary

An application is being made by O'Connell Poultry Farms Ltd., Ahawilk, Feohanagh, Castlemahon, Co. Limerick to the Environmental Protection Agency (E.P.A.) for a Licence in respect of their poultry farm at Ahawilk, Feohanagh, Castlemahon, Co. Limerick.

This enterprise is classed as: **Activity Class 6.1 (a)**, “ The rearing of poultry in an installation, where the capacity exceeds 40,000 places.”

This is a proposed free range poultry farm. Planning permission has been granted by Limerick Co. Co. to construct two number poultry house with an application for planning permission for an additional poultry house, permitting an overall capacity on the farm of 100,000 places. Copies of the planning decision, planners report and E.I.A.R, where relevant, have been included with this application.

This site (as indicated on accompanying map) will be a well managed modern site, well constructed and in an excellent state of repair throughout.

1. The main activities carried out on-site (listed below) revolve around the care and management of the birds:

- Transport of day old chicks to the farm.
- Feeding and rearing of birds.
- General animal husbandry practices.
- Transport of feed to the farm.
- Transport of birds from site to factory at c. 56 days of age.
- Removal of litter from the houses.
- Transport of Litter off site.
- Washing of houses between each batch, for flock health and performance reasons.
- Bedding of houses with straw/shavings in preparation for the next crop.
- Maintenance of buildings and equipment.
- Recording and monitoring of internal house environment and bird performance and mortality.
- Management of the associated range area.

Site plans and location map of this farm have been submitted as part of the application. Normal working hours on this site will be primarily from 06.00hrs to 20.00hrs., however automated feeding and ventilation systems will operate continuously.

2. The raw and ancillary materials used in the running of this farm include:

- Compounded poultry rations, water, and occasionally antibiotic medication for the birds.
- Detergents, disinfectants and pest control products for flock health and hygiene reasons.
- Electricity for operating the feed system, ventilation, lighting, the power washer etc.
- Gas for providing supplementary heat to the houses.

3. The main sources of emissions/by-products from this farm will include:

- Poultry Litter ~ to be incorporated into a fertiliser management system whereby it is used as an organic fertiliser to replace imported chemical fertiliser and/or removed off-site for composting as is currently carried out.
 - Clean surface water ~ Roof water will be collected by land drains around the houses and discharged to local watercourse.
 - Soiled water ~ Directed to soiled water storage tanks, prior to its application to the applicants landholding adjoining the site.
 - Veterinary Waste
 - General/Domestic Waste
 - Animal tissue waste
- Consent of copying for inspection purposes only. Consent of copying owner required for any other use.
- To be disposed of by specialist contractors.
- Odour and Noise

This farm will have minimal adverse impact on the environment partly due to the experience gained over the years of operational management, the standard of buildings proposed and the availability of a quality manure transport system. It is expected that this will be improved upon where possible as a result of this proposed development.

4. The proposed technology and other techniques for preventing or, where this is not possible, reducing emissions from the installation.

Poultry Litter:

- The poultry litter produced on site can be used as an organic fertiliser, which substitutes for the inorganic chemical fertiliser presently being used. The manure can be recycled on to the agricultural land replacing generally imported energy inefficient compound fertiliser.
- Phytase to be incorporated into the diets fed on site so as to reduce phosphorous excretion.
- Diets to be formulated to a low crude protein to reduce N excretion.
- The use of 4 specialised diets over the rearing period will help ensure that the minimum amount of nutrients are excreted.
- Quality machinery to be available for manure transport.

Clean Surface Water

- Separation of clean and dirty water systems.

Dirty Surface Water

- Separation of clean and dirty water systems.
- Houses physically cleaned of litter and blown down so as to minimise the amount of washing/water needed.
- Specialised/dedicated soiled water collection tanks.

Veterinary Waste

Will comprise of:

Bottles	~	plastic and glass material
packaging	~	plastic and paper material

Vaccines are used as the primary disease control measure on the farm. In-feed medications are the second line of defence. Additional medication may be given through the water system if required. This management routine under veterinary supervision reduces the volume of veterinary waste.

Animal Tissue Waste

- Comprises of a variety of carcasses due to natural deaths on the farm. This material is a resource ingredient in the animal rendering industry.
- Storage is provided in sealed skips.
- This waste is kept to a minimum due to the high standard of animal husbandry practised.
- Disposed of by personnel employed by the licensed rendering facility.

Odour & Noise

- Deliveries (inward & outward) are confined to the normal daily work routine.
- There is a strict washing routine so as to prevent the built up of odour within the houses.
- Noise and odour emissions are reduced by the use of automated feeding and ventilation systems.
- Houses stocked at optimum stocking levels, i.e. not overstocked.

5. Complaints History

There has been no history of any incidents etc. associated with this farm.

6. Energy Efficiency

Energy costs are a major part of the running cost of any poultry farm. In order to minimise the amount of energy used the following practices are implemented.

- Gas used for heating as opposed to electricity.
- Fluorescent tubes (or other energy efficient lighting) used/to be used for efficiency.
- Day/night economy rate electricity.
- High insulation standards in all buildings.

7. Should any incident with the potential for environmental contamination arise, the applicant(s) will,

- Inform the Licensing and Control Officer of the E.P.A.
- Inform the local authority and local regional fisheries board where applicable.
- Take the most appropriate measures available to minimise the effect of the accident/spill.
- Consult with the E.P.A. and local authority on any further appropriate remedial action required.

8. Specific programmes have been outlined to deal with the possibility of cessation of activity at this site:

- Birds will be sold.
- Animal tissue, veterinary waste and any other wastes will be removed as per normal.
- Feed will be removed from the bins and any unopened medicines returned to the supplier.
- Litter will be removed from the houses and transported off-site as per normal.
- The houses will be washed and disinfected, and left idle.

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