


This Report has been cleared for submission to the Board by Programme Manager, Marie O'Connor

Signed: *Marie O'Connor* **Date:** 4th August 2022

 epa Environmental Protection Agency <i>An Ghníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil</i>		OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSING PROGRAMME MEMO		
TO:	Directors	Environmental Licensing Programme
FROM:	Jim Johnson	Environmental Licensing Programme
DATE:	4 th August 2022	
RE:	Addendum to Oral Hearing Memorandum for a review of an IE licence - SSE Generation Ireland Limited P0606-04	

Background

The EPA issued a Proposed Determination to SSE Generation Ireland Limited Great Island Generating Station, Campile, New Ross, Wexford, Reg No. P0606-04 on 09 February 2022 and received a First Party, 5 Third Party Objections and a Submission on the First party Objection to the Proposed Determination, 3 of which also requested an Oral Hearing.

An Oral Hearing Memorandum was presented to the Board of the Agency on 17 May 2022. Following discussion, the Board deferred a decision pending the Inspector providing additional information.

Additional Information

The Agency has 'absolute discretion' in relation to the holding of an oral hearing of objections received whether or not a request for an oral hearing accompanied the objections (EPA Act section 87(8)). Should the Agency decide not to hold an oral hearing a technical committee will prepare a report for the Board with recommendations in relation their consideration of the objections. The Agency may also request additional information from any party to an objection to enable consideration of the objection by the Technical Committee or the Board.¹

¹Environmental Protection Agency (Industrial Emissions) (Licensing) Regulations 2013 in Articles 27, 28 and 35

In accordance with the guidance published in 2010 oral hearing requests are assessed against the following criteria²:

1. new issues not previously raised that are specific to the location or the development;
2. the sensitivity of the location/local environment;
3. whether it is a matter of national or regional importance;
4. the scale or complexity of the development;
5. significant new information.

In relation to the objections received on the proposed determination Criteria 1 and Criteria 5 are very similar and so are considered together. The objections do not raise new issues specific to the location or the activity or introduce significant new information from that assessed during the preparation of the Inspectors Report and Recommended Determination and the material submitted can be assessed by the Technical Committee.

With regard to Criteria 2 -the sensitivity of the location/local environment; the activity was assessed against the requirements of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477) as amended, the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 as amended, as well as the Air Quality Standards Regulations, SI 58/2009 and 180/2011. The licence review included an Environmental Impact Assessment and an Appropriate Assessment of the activity. There have been no changes to the designation of sites in the local environment or changes to the relevant legislation since the PD was issued.

As regards Criteria 3 -*'whether it is a matter of national or regional importance'*, in considering the objections, the Agency, must take account of the matters raised in the objection or in certain circumstances other matters not raised by a party to an objection.

With regard to the scale or complexity of the development, the installation is one of several gas-powered electricity generating stations in the country, characterised by very similar processes and emissions, many of which have been in place for several decades. The installation itself is a relatively large-scale operation with emissions to air and a number of emissions to water.


In relation to this licence review it does not result in any significant new emission points to the environment. The screenwash water that was due to be discontinued under the current licence is proposed to continue with tighter emission limits. The impact of this discharge was assessed in the Inspector's Report. The PD also updates the licence in line with BAT Conclusions for the Large Combustion Plant (LCP) sector which tightened air emissions.

With regard to the objections, they are well articulated in the documents provided by the First and Third Party Objectors with the focus primarily on the impact of discharges from the installation on the Waterford Estuary. However, they are generally not new

² Waste Management and IPPC Licensing Aspects of Licensing Procedures: Objections and Oral Hearings EPA 2010

additional matters raised which are considered as sufficiently significant on a regional or national scale to necessitate an oral hearing.

As the Agency may, when carrying out the detailed consideration of each objection, request additional documents, particulars or other information necessary to consider the objections an oral hearing is not recommended.



Jim Johnson

Environmental Licensing Programme

Office of Environmental Sustainability