

19<sup>th</sup> December 2022  
Our ref: GCU0272001/TVM

Ms. Marie O'Connor,  
Environmental Protection Agency,  
Office of Environmental Sustainability,  
Johnstown Castle Estate  
Wexford.

Attention: Ms. Marie O'Connor

**Subject: Technical Amendment Request W0151-01**

Dear Ms. O'Connor,

### Introduction

We act on behalf of the licensee Murphy Concrete Manufacturing Ltd (MCM), who operate a waste management facility for the acceptance and disposal of imported waste material in Sarsfieldstown, Gormanston, County Meath (the Facility). The Facility operates under EPA Waste Licence Register number W0151-01 (the Licence), issued by the EPA on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June 2003 and a subsequent Technical Amendment A, issued by the EPA on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February 2013.

MCM wish to apply for a Technical Amendment to Schedule A.1 *Waste Acceptance*, Table A.1.1 *Total Permitted Landfill Capacity* of the Licence, so that the currently licensed total quantity of waste permitted to be placed at the landfill facility over the authorised life of facility of 3,800,000 tonnes is increased to 6,000,000 tonnes. This increase is required because the current figure of 3,800,000 tonnes, which was introduced into the Licence in 2013 by Technical Amendment A, is not consistent with subsequent Restoration Plans agreed with the EPA in 2014 and 2017.

In the following, we summarise the history of this issue, as we understand it.

### Background

Prior to Technical Amendment A of the Licence being issued by the EPA in February 2013, landfilling at the Facility was limited by the following elements of the Licence:

- **Schedule A.1 *Waste Acceptance***, which stipulated licenced quantities for inert waste disposal (738,000 tonnes/annum) and inert waste recovery (12,000 tonnes/annum), and

- **Condition 4.2**, which stipulated that the final height of the facility in areas where waste had been deposited prior to the facility restoration activities shall not exceed 22 meters above Ordnance Datum (mOD) Malin.

Technical Amendment A introduced a total waste quantity of 3,800,000 tonnes into the Licence. In effect, this changed the basis for restoration of the Facility from the maximum elevations stated in the original Licence, to a stipulated total tonnage limit.

### **Planning Permission - 2003**

According to an EPA inspectors report dated, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2003, prepared by Mr. Caoimhin Nolan, in relation to the original Waste Licence application for the Facility:

*“Based on correspondence received from Meath County Council on 30/8/01, no planning permission exists for the operation of the site as a waste disposal facility. The two planning permissions relating to this facility (ref. 96/1000 and 99/1152) allow for the restoration and reinstatement of certain distinct portions – i.e. the Bord Gais pipe storage area, the workshop/store and the area where domestic waste was previously deposited in the east of the site.”*

The Meath County Council Planning office was visited by Geosyntec representative on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022 and all electronically available planning files were inspected. The EPA’s conclusions above were confirmed, i.e. no planning permission exists for the operation of the site as a waste disposal facility. We note that the quarry (Ref: QY/61) was registered under Section 261 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 in 2006 by Meath County Council.

### **Technical Amendment A - 2013**

In correspondence from the EPA to MCM dated 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2012, the EPA stated that they were required to amend upwards of 75 licences to bring them into compliance with the EC Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010. In the same correspondence the EPA also indicated that the total quantity of waste authorised to be deposited at the Facility would be inserted into the Licence.

How the total waste quantity of 3,800,000 tonnes was calculated and subsequently included in Technical Amendment A is not clear. There is a lack of records (on both sites) on this point and personnel managing licence compliance on MCM’s side around 2013 are no longer available.

### **Agreed Restoration Plans - 2014 & 2017**

Since the Technical Amendment A was issued in February 2013, two amended Restoration and Aftercare Plans, in compliance with Condition 4.1, were submitted to the EPA by MCM, and subsequently agreed by the EPA:

- **April 2014** - this updated plan was prepared as a response to a corrective action requested in the EPA’s site inspection report dated 21 January 2014. The updated plan

reviewed the original filling plan dated 2005 and proposed a future sequence of landfill development.

- **June 2017** - this updated plan was prepared as a response to a non-compliance, in relation to the restoration heights of the Facility, listed in the EPA's site inspection report (*Ref.: SV10541*) dated 16<sup>th</sup> February 2017. The updated plan corrected the proposed site restoration heights to mOD levels. The previous site elevations were based on a local site datum, which was 2.252 metres lower than mOD (Malin) elevations. The 2017 plan also provided an estimated total remaining capacity at the Facility of 448,000 tonnes.

The licensee continued in good faith to restore the facility in accordance with the June 2017 Restoration and Aftercare Plan, which referred to proposed final elevations within the Facility, rather than a total quantity of waste permitted to be placed at the Facility.

### **Proposed Amended Total Quantity of Waste**

Based on weighbridge records a total of 5,700,000 million tonnes of inert waste material was accepted and deposited within the Facility between June 2003 and November 2019. No materials have been accepted at the Facility for restoration purposes since November 2019.

The remaining void space at the Facility, based on a topographical survey carried out in February 2020, is ca. 170,000 tonnes.

On this basis, MCM proposes that the total quantity of waste permitted to be placed at the Facility is increased to 6,000,000 tonnes.

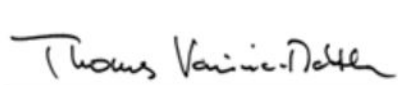
### **Conclusions**

MCM is requesting that the total quantity of waste permitted to be placed at the Facility is increased to 6,000,000 tonnes by Technical Amendment of the Licence. This amendment aims to resolve an inconsistency in the Licence that was introduced in 2013 when Technical Amendment A was issued. This request, if granted by the EPA, will increase clarity and enable more efficient operation of the Facility.

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Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions or comments on the above proposals.

Yours sincerely for  
**Geosyntec Consultants Ltd**



Thomas Vainio-Mattila  
Principal Consultant