

This Report has been cleared for submission to the Board by Programme Manager, Warren Phelan.

Signed: 

Date: 05/10/2023



**OFFICE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY**

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE'S ADDENDUM REPORT

TO: Directors

FROM: Technical Committee Environmental Licensing Programme

DATE: 05 OCTOBER 2023

RE: Addendum to the TCR for the Appropriate Assessment of a new SPA site 'North-West Irish Sea SPA (004236)', in relation to Dublin Waste to Energy Limited IEL Application W0232-02

Introduction

The licence application relates to Dublin Waste to Energy Limited (hereafter referred to as DWtE), an existing licensee, who operate a non-hazardous waste incineration plant with energy recovery at Poolbeg on the eastern side of Dublin city. In the licence application, DWtE propose to increase the permitted maximum annual waste intake from 600,000 tonnes per annum (tpa) to 690,000 tpa. The main processing operations at DWtE are waste acceptance, waste intake and storage, thermal processing, energy recovery and flue gas cleaning. The main process building has two identical waste-to-energy lines, each with separate boilers and flue gas cleaning. The two lines supply steam to one high-voltage turbine/generator that is connected to the electrical grid. In the future, some of the heat produced will be exported to the Dublin District Heating Scheme, when the external infrastructure is completed.

There was one submission received in relation to the application and this was considered by the Board at PD stage. The licensee made 17 main points of objection relating to the glossary and specific Conditions/Schedules of the Proposed Determination. These objections were considered by the Board on the 03 October, 2023.

There is a new site with new specific conservation objectives 'North-West Irish Sea SPA (004236)' in close proximity (3.58 km northeast of the installation) to Dublin Waste to Energy Limited (IEL W0232-02). Notice of intention to designate this site was 12/07/2023 and the site specific conservation objectives notice was 26/09/2023.

Full appropriate assessment of the effect of these activities on the new SPA is required. This Addendum should be read in conjunction with the inspector's report dated the 02 March 2023 and the Technical Committee (TC) Report dated the 28 September 2023.

Appropriate Assessment – Technical Committee Review

The TC notes that new qualifying interests and conservation objectives have been issued for European Site, North West Irish Sea SPA (Site Code 004236), as per Appendix 1.

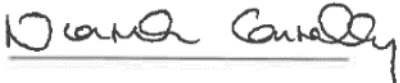
The North West Irish Sea SPA is 3.48 km from the boundary of the installation (Refer to Appendix 2). The new qualifying interests and conservation objectives have been reviewed and considered (Refer to Appendix 1). The same affects have already been considered in the Inspectors report for South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (Site Code 004024) which is located at the boundary of the installation and North Bull Island SPA (Site Code 004006) which is location 1.25 kms north east of the installation.

The TC has reviewed the Inspector's Appropriate Assessment in the Inspector's Report and, taking into account all objections received, the content of the TC report and the content of this TC Addendum report, the TC is satisfied that the Inspector's Report dated the 02 March 2023, the Technical Committee Report dated the 28 September 2023 and when supplemented by this Technical Committee Addendum Report provides an adequate examination and evaluation of the effects of the activity on the following European Sites concerned, in light of their conservation objectives:

South Dublin Bay SAC (Site Code 000210)	Dalkey Islands SPA (Site Code 004172)
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (Site Code 004024)	Ireland's Eye SAC (Site Code 002193)
North Dublin Bay SAC (Site Code 000206)	Ireland's Eye SPA (Site Code 004117)
North Bull Island SPA (Site Code 004006),	Malahide Estuary SAC (Site Code 000205)
Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC (Site Code 003000)	Malahide Estuary SPA (Site Code 004025)
Howth Head SAC (Site Code 000202)	Wicklow Mountains SAC (Site Code 002122)
Howth Head Coast SPA (Site Code 004113)	Wicklow Mountains SPA (Site Code 004040)
Baldoyle Bay SAC (Site Code 000199)	Knocksink Wood SAC (Site Code 00725)
Baldoyle Bay SPA (Site Code 004016)	Glenasmole Valley SAC (Site Code 001209)
Ballyman Glen SAC (Site Code 000713)	North West Irish Sea SPA (Site Code 004236)

The TC are satisfied that the appropriate assessment does not alter or change the recommendation dated 02 March 2023 (Inspectors Report) and 28 September 2023 (Technical Committee Inspectors Report) to grant the licence subject to the conditions set out in the RD. The Inspector's Report, the Technical Committee Report and this Technical Committees Addendum Report as submitted to the Board of the Agency has addressed that all emissions from these activities will not adversely affect the integrity of the European sites.

Signed



Niamh Connolly

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Licensing Inspector

Appendix 1 Appropriate Assessment

Assessment of the effects of the activities on the European site and proposed mitigation measures	
Site Name (site code)	North West Irish Sea SPA 004236
Distance To (km)	3.58 km northeast of the installation
Conservation Objectives	NPWS (2023) Conservation Objectives: North West Irish Sea SPA 004236. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
Qualifying Interests (* denotes a priority habitat)	Assessment
<p>Birds</p> <p>A001 Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) A003 Great Northern Diver (<i>Gavia immer</i>) A009 Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) A013 Manx Shearwater (<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>) A017 Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) A018 Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) A065 Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) A179 Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) A182 Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) A183 Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) A184 Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) A187 Great Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus marinus</i>) A188 Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) A192 Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) A193 Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) A194 Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) A195 Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) A199 Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) A200 Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) A204 Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) A862 Little Gull (<i>Hydrocoloeus minute</i>)</p>	<p>The potential for impacts on the qualifying interests of the SPA include degradation of air and water quality upon which their conservation status depends and noise disturbance.</p> <p>Emissions to sewer/storm water</p> <p>There are no process emissions to sewer pathway between the installation and SPA. Overflow from the stormwater attenuation tank discharges to the neighbouring Ringsend Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant (MWWTP) which ultimately discharges to the Dublin Bay following treatment in the Ringsend MWWTP.</p> <p><i>Mitigation</i></p> <p>The RD requires the licensee to maintain the storm water/drainage system. The RD also requires that the storm water discharge is visually inspected and monitored for pH and TOC prior to discharge to Ringsend MWWTP, in accordance with Schedule C.2.3 <i>Monitoring of Storm Water Emissions</i>.</p> <p>Emissions to Water</p> <p>Discharges to the Dublin Bay include cooling water from the installation, is discharged to the Liffey Estuary via emission point reference number SW-1. The main potential for impact would arise from changes in water quality which could affect the habitats and species directly or could affect the water dependent prey on which the qualifying species depend.</p> <p><i>Mitigation</i></p> <p>The RD, as proposed, requires that the following controls are in place to protect the qualifying interests of the SPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emissions may be made from specified emission points set out in <i>Schedule B: Emission Limits</i>, subject to compliance with the Emission Limit Values specified in that Schedule. • The licensee shall maintain silt traps and oil separators at the installation. • Limits have been set to achieve the environmental objectives of the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 including protected area objectives for conservation areas. • Condition 3 of the RD requires that all tank, container and drum storage areas shall be rendered impervious to the materials stored therein. <p>Emissions to Air</p> <p>There are main emission points to air (see emissions to air section of this report). There is potential for diffuse emissions during operational phases of the activities. The main potential for impact would arise from changes in air quality which could affect the habitats directly. Refer to emissions to air section of this Inspector's report. Air dispersion modelling demonstrates</p>

	<p>that the impact of emissions from the installation will be below the relevant air quality standards and standards for protection of vegetation (refer to emissions to air section). Noise modelling demonstrates that the activities can comply with the limits specified in the licence to avoid any disturbance of qualifying interests (refer to noise section of this report).</p> <p><i>Mitigation</i></p> <p>The RD, as proposed, requires that the following controls are in place to protect the qualifying interests of the SPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emissions may be made from specified emission points set out in <i>Schedule B: Emission Limits</i>, subject to compliance with the Emission Limit Values specified in that Schedule. • The licence requires the licensee to prepare and implement a programme for the identification and reduction of diffuse emissions using all appropriate techniques listed in BAT 21 of CID 2019/2010. • Maintenance of negative air pressure at the waste reception, waste bunker, waste storage and incinerator residue/loading areas of the incineration plant to ensure no significant escape of odours and dust. • The licence specifies noise emission limit values at noise sensitive locations. The licensee shall carry out a noise survey as required by the Agency. <p><u>Potential for Accidents to Arise</u></p> <p>There is the potential for accident/hazardous and emergency situations arising from the operation of this installation which could affect the habitats. Refer to prevention of accidents and cessation of activity sections of this Inspector's report.</p> <p><i>Mitigation</i></p> <p>The RD, as proposed, requires that the following controls are in place to protect the qualifying interests of the SPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A documented Accident Prevention Procedure is in place that addresses hazards on-site, particularly in relation to the prevention of accidents with a possible impact on the environment. • A documented Emergency Response Procedure in place that addresses any emergency situation on-site which should include provision for minimising the effects of any emergency on the environment. • All tank, container and drum storage areas shall be rendered impervious to the materials stored therein. Bunds shall be designed having regard to Agency guidelines '<i>Storage and Transfer of Materials for Scheduled Activities</i>' (2004), which will minimise the potential for contamination of soil/groundwater.
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Appendix 2. Location of North West Irish Sea SPA (Site Code 004236) (Ref. NPWS Conservation Objectives Series, Sept. 2013)

