

Martin Morrissey
Eras Eco Ltd.
Foxholes
Youghal
Co. Cork

Date: 29th November 2023

Dear Martin,

RE: PLANNING OPINION IN RELATION TO ACCEPTANCE OF WASTE MATERIALS AT ERAS ECO LTD., FOXHOLES, YOUGHAL, CO. CORK

Eras Eco Ltd operates its waste management facility at Foxholes, Youghal, Co. Cork under planning permission granted by An Bord Pleanála (Ref PL 04.239166) and an Industrial Emissions Directive Licence (W0211-01) issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Both the planning permission and the EPA licence authorise the acceptance of 65,000 tonnes of waste/year and the operation of an anaerobic digestion (AD) plant, a sludge drying facility and a dry recyclable recovery operation. The authorised waste types include commercial, industrial and household wastes, sludge and landfill leachate.

Eras Eco has ceased sludge drying and dry recyclables recovery and the only waste activity carried out is the operation of the AD plant. This plant processes organic wastes to produce biomethane, which is used to generate renewable electricity, and a digestate, which is used as an agricultural fertiliser that replaces chemically manufactured fertilisers.

The organic wastes currently processed in the AD plant comprises a mix of commercial and industrial wastes including sludges and off specification materials from food and beverage manufacturing. The plant has the capacity (and permission) to process 65,000 tonnes/year.

Eras Eco has applied to the EPA to revise the licence to reflect both the current operations and proposed activities. In relation to the latter it is proposed to install an expired liquid and solid food stuff depackaging plant to remove the packaging before these materials are processed in the AD plant. The sources of the food stuff will be large retail outlets including supermarket chains. It is also proposed to accept household food waste (brown bin).

The EPA has requested Eras Eco to provide evidence of planning permission to allow the acceptance and digestion of 65,000 tonnes of organic waste per year.

Condition 3 of PL 04.239166 limits the tonnages of waste that may be treated at the facility on an annual basis to:

- Commercial, Industrial and Household Waste: 20,000 tonnes.

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- Non Hazardous Sludge: 40,000 tonnes.
- Leachate from landfills 5,000 tonnes.

Any proposal to change the above tonnages shall be subject to a further grant of planning permission.

The proposal to accept the expired food waste from retail outlets and household food waste does not require any change to the permitted waste tonnages.

The food waste sludges, off specification materials from food and beverage manufacturing all fall into the non-hazardous sludge and industrial waste categories. The expired food stuffs from the retailers and the household food waste (brown bin) fall into the commercial and household waste categories. Landfill leachate is an organic waste that can be treated in the AD plant.

If you have any further queries in this regard please let me know.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Barrett

Director

Tom Phillips + Associates