

Non-Technical Summary

An application is being made by Mr. Michael Noel O'Connor, Rathcahill West, Templeglantine,, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick to the Environmental Protection Agency (E.P.A.) for a revised Licence in respect of his poultry farm at Rathcahill West, Templeglantine,, Newcastle West, 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.”

Planning permission has been received from Limerick Co. Co. to construct 1 No. additional poultry house permitting an overall capacity on the farm of 108,000 places, (increasing from the current permitted level of 74,000 birds). Copies of the grant of permission, planners report and E.I.A.R. have been included with this application.

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. 35 – 42 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.

Site plans and location map of this farm have been submitted as part of the application. Normal working hours on this site are 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 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 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
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- Disposed of by specialist contractors.
- Odour and Noise

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 incorporated into the diets fed on site so as to reduce phosphorous excretion.
- Diets 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 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

Comprises 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 to be provided in sealed skips.
- This waste will be 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 will be a strict washing routine so as to prevent the built up of odour within the houses.
- Noise and odour emissions are to be reduced by the use of automated feeding and ventilation systems.
- Houses to be 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 this 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 used for efficiency.
- Day/night economy rate electricity.
- Improved insulation standards in all buildings.

7. Should any incident with the potential for environmental contamination arise, Mr. Michael Noel O'Connor 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.