



This report has been cleared for Submission to the Board by the Programme Manager

Frank Clinton

Signed: *F. Clinton*

Date: 22/3/10

**LICENSING
RESOURCE USE**

INSPECTORS REPORT ON A LICENCE APPLICATION

To:	Directors
From:	Patrick Byrne/Lisa Maher - LICENSING UNIT
Date:	18 TH MARCH 2010
RE:	Application for an IPPC Licence from Mr. Sean Brady, Hyde Park Pig Farm, Oldtown, Hyde Park, Killucan, Co. Westmeath, Licence Register P0874-01

Application Details

Class of activity:	Class 6.2 The rearing of pigs in an installation, whether within the same complex or within 100 metres of the same complex, where the capacity exceeds 285 places for sows in an integrated unit.
Licence application received:	1 st December 2008
Notice under Article 8 issued:	29 th January 2009
Information under Article 8 received:	10 th November 2009 & 15 th December 2009
Notices under Article 11(2)(b)(ii) issued:	29 th January 2009
Information under Article 11(2)(b)(ii) received:	11 th January 2010
Notice under Art 13 issued:	30 th January 2009
EIS received (Article 13 information received):	28 th September 2009
Supplementary material submitted by applicant	None
Submissions received:	12 th February 2009, 12 th November 2009
Site notice inspected:	27 th January 2009
Site visits:	27 th January 2009

Company

This application relates to an existing 550 places for sows integrated unit¹ (with approximately 3,900 fatteners on-site). Maximum stock numbers accommodated at the installation are based on 550 places for sows in an integrated unit, however normal stocking will be c. 520 places for sows. The installation is owned and managed by Mr. Sean Brady in the rural area of Oldtown, 2.7 Km southeast of Killucan, Co. Westmeath. The activities carried out on site include the breeding, management and rearing of pigs to slaughter weight.

¹ 'integrated unit' means a piggery in which pigs are bred and reared to slaughter.

This activity has been in operation at this site since the early 1960s. The operation was taken over by the current owner in the early 1990s and operated as a 220 sow unit until 1994 when planning permission was granted to extend to 290 sows. The activity was extended to its current scale after Westmeath County Council granted planning permission in November 2000 for the construction of 2 fattening houses, 1 weaner/dry sow house, an extension to an existing farrowing/weaner house and ancillary works at the site. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was required in support of the above planning application. A copy of the EIS was provided in support of this licence application.

The pig unit employs 4 full-time workers. The production on the site is continuous. However, operative staff are present and collections and deliveries are normally made between 08.00 and 18.00 hrs.

Process Description

There are a total of 7 animal houses at the installation including 1 weaner/dry sow house, 2 farrowing houses with shared 1st and 2nd stage weaner and 4 finishing rooms where pigs are bred and reared to slaughter weight. Automated feeding and ventilation systems are employed on site with the exception of one house, which retains a natural ventilation system. Heated pads on the floor of the farrowing houses are used to supply additional heat to the pigs following farrowing. Pig manure generated on site is collected in the manure storage tanks underneath the houses and is recovered by landspreading on 15 farms located in the surrounding area (Westmeath) and in counties Meath and Galway. Pigs are moved between houses at different stages of growth; all movements follow an all-in all-out basis to ensure minimal disease status. The farrowing and weaner houses are cleaned out after each group of pigs are moved and the finishing rooms are washed twice yearly. This is done by soaking each room via a sprinkler system and using pre-wash detergents, followed by high-pressure power washers. Soiled water is collected in the manure storage tank underneath the houses and is landspread with manure as outlined above.

Emissions

Air

The main atmospheric emission from this installation is warm air from the ventilation system and gas volatilisation from the organic manure. Increased emissions may at times be associated with the loading of pigs and/or the loading of pig manure. The applicant currently employs a number of control measures on site to minimise potential odour emissions. Some of those measures include: quality ventilation and house design, minimisation of carcasses by keeping herd health to the highest standard, high standards of manure management, and maintenance of stocking densities at design level. The applicant states that there has never been a complaint in relation to odour from this site and that it is not expected that there will be any emissions to air of environmental significance. There are dwelling houses c.140 metres north of the installation boundary and another house c.120 metres south of the boundary of the installation. Condition 5.4 of the RD requires submission of an odour management programme within one year of grant of licence. The odour management programme shall be updated and reviewed annually.

Emissions to Sewer

There are no emissions to sewer from this installation.

Emissions to Waters

There are no process emissions to waters from this installation.

Surface Water

Surface water arises on site from concrete yards and building roofs. Clean storm water is collected and piped to two discharge points on the site. The bulk of the storm water is piped

and discharged to the Ballyhaw Stream known locally as the Black Drain, a tributary of the River Deel. The nearest EPA monitoring point is located 4.6km downstream of the installation on the River Deel. Biological water quality is recorded as Q3-4 at this point. The Ballyhaw Stream, in accordance with the Water Framework Directive, is classified as 1b 'water body is thought to be at risk of failing to meet the objectives pending further investigation'. The remaining clean surface water is collected and drained to a soakaway at the entrance to the site.

Surface water run-off should be uncontaminated and therefore should have no impact on surface water quality off-site. The Recommended Determination (RD) recommends quarterly BOD/COD monitoring and weekly visual inspection of storm water emissions at surface water monitoring points SW-1 and SW-2.

All soiled surface water is diverted to underground manure storage tanks. Animal movements are confined to slatted or paved passageways and all slurry extraction points are surrounded by slatted areas, which allow spills to drain back to the underground slurry tanks. All soiled surface water generated at the installation is landspread with the manure arising on-site. Landspreading shall be in accordance with European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2009 (S.I. No. 101 of 2009) and the conditions of the RD.

Groundwater

There is one groundwater well located on site. This well was drilled as a groundwater monitoring well approximately 10 years ago and is approximately 7.5 metres deep. Water from the well is used as a back-up supply for both the animals and the residential dwelling adjacent to the site (outside the installation boundary) but generally it is not in use. The well water supply is not metered whereas the public water supply, which is the main supply, is metered. No groundwater monitoring results were provided in support of the application. The applicant claims that there has been no historical contamination of groundwater at this site. No animal movements occur in the area adjacent to the well. Groundwater in the area in accordance with the Water Framework Directive, is classified as 2a 'water body is expected to meet good status in 2015, pending further investigation'. *Schedule C.6.1* of the RD requires the on-site well to be monitored on an annual basis.

Manure Management and Recovery

The operation of the pig unit will result in the production of up to 8,932 m³ of slurry per annum (including wash water). The total available storage capacity on site is approximately 11,300 m³ (including deductions for freeboard), which is sufficient for approximately 15 months storage (based on maximum slurry production). Only underground slurry tanks are in use at the installation. Due to phased site development, the newest tanks have only been constructed in the last three years. All tanks appeared to be in good condition during the site inspection. There are 7 main slurry extraction points on site but only 5 are in regular use. Slurry is transferred between underground tanks to allow drainage to the main extraction points; the movement of slurry between tanks is controlled manually through a sluice system.

The applicant has identified 15 farmers who are available/seeking to accept slurry/manure from the installation as fertiliser for their farms. The applicant has calculated that these farms have a need for up to 25,800 m³ of pig slurry/manure per annum based on the nitrogen balance for the farms. The slurry is landspread in Counties Westmeath, Meath and Galway. The RD requires that pig slurry/manure is recovered in accordance with the requirements set out in European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2009 (S.I. No. 101 of 2009) and the conditions of the RD (Condition 8).

Waste

The only hazardous waste generated on site is spent fluorescent lighting tubes. Approximately 5 – 10 waste tubes are generated per annum. Used fluorescent tubes are returned to the supplier and/or transported to Westmeath County Council Civic Amenity Centre for disposal/recovery.

Veterinary waste (5 – 10 Kgs per annum) arising at the site consists of used veterinary needles. Used needles are stored in designated storage bins on site and are collected by Trans-safe Ltd. for treatment at an EPA licensed facility (Waste License Reg. No. W0055-02, Sterile Technologies Ireland Ltd.).

Animal carcasses / tissue waste (c.20 tonnes per annum) are collected and delivered to College Proteins Ltd., which is a licensed rendering plant (IPPC Licence Reg. No. P0037-03). Waste animal tissue is stored in sealed skips on site and is collected regularly and delivered to College Proteins Ltd.

Domestic refuse (< 1 tonne per annum) produced on site consists of packaging waste and disposable clothing. This waste is stored in a covered area on site. The applicant brings recyclable material to Westmeath County Council Civic Amenity Centre and non – recyclable material is brought to a Westmeath County Council landfill (Waste licence Reg. No. W0028-03 or W0071-02).

Noise

Deliveries both inward and outward are confined to the normal daily work routine 08.00 to 18.00 hours. Noise emissions are reduced by the use of a computerised and/or ad-lib feeding system therefore pigs do not associate feeding with people entering and leaving the houses. The applicant states in the application that there have been no complaints of noise emissions for this installation to date. According to the applicant this installation will not result in audible noise outside of acceptable limits at or beyond the site boundary. Limits in accordance with Agency's *Guidance Note on Noise in Relation to Scheduled Activities* at off-site noise sensitive locations have been included in the RD.

Use of Resources

The on site operations involve the consumption of water, feed, gas, electricity, medication and disinfectant/detergents. Feed represents the largest input to the installation. Water used on-site is supplied from the public mains and this supply is metered. Electricity is used on site for the operation of all the automated processes on the farm such as feeding, lighting, ventilation etc. Gas / electricity is used for heating where required. The amount of electricity and gas used on the site is c. 20-25,000 units of electricity and c. 1,000 litres of gas per annum. Buildings are well insulated and ventilated to minimise energy usage. There is a back-up generator on site that is used if there is a disruption in the power supply. Veterinary medicine usage is minimised by restricting access to the site by unnecessary personnel and a strict regime of cleaning / disinfecting pig houses is employed. Disinfectant / detergents are stored in powder form in the medicine room on site and are used in accordance with supplier directions. The RD specifies conditions dealing with water, energy and raw material use, reduction and efficiency on site.

Compliance with EU Directives

IPPC Directive (2008/1/EC)

This installation falls within the scope of category 6.6 (b) (Installations for the intensive rearing of pigs with more than 2,000 places for production pigs (over 30kg)) of Annex I of Council Directive 2008/1/EC concerning integrated pollution prevention and control.

The RD as drafted takes account of the requirements of the Directive. BAT is represented by guidance given in the IPPC Reference Document on BAT for the Intensive Rearing of Poultry and Pigs, July 2003.

Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)

The only emissions to surface water from this installation are uncontaminated storm water emissions from roofs and unpaved area. The RD requires quarterly BOD/COD monitoring and

a weekly visual inspection of storm water emissions. Condition 6.7 of the RD specifies that all slurry generated on site shall be stored in a manner which does not pollute ground or surface water. Condition 6.8.5 of the RD states that there shall be no unauthorised discharge of polluting matter to water. The RD specifies that the licensee shall identify opportunities for the reduction in the quantities of water used on site including recycling and reuse initiatives.

Slurry/manure generated on the installation shall be recovered to land as fertiliser in accordance with the European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2009 (S.I. No. 101 of 2009) and the conditions of the RD.

These measures will aid in achieving the target of good water quality by 2015 under the Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC).

EU Animal By-Products Regulations (EC No. 1774/2002)

Animal tissue and carcasses arise due to mortalities. The waste shall be stored on site temporarily in sealed leak proof containers. The waste is collected and transported to College Proteins Ltd., where the material is rendered in accordance with the Animal By Product Regulations and IPPC licence (Reg. No. P0037-03).

EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC)

The Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) – Council Directive of 12 December 1991 concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources – has the objective of reducing water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and preventing further such pollution, with the primary emphasis being on the management of livestock manures and other fertilisers. The Directive has been transposed into Irish legislation by the European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2009 (S.I. No. 101 of 2009). The RD specifies the minimum slurry storage requirements for this installation. The RD requires that where pig manure is landspread such practice shall be undertaken in accordance with the Regulations and the conditions of the RD.

Habitats Directive (92/43/EC) & Birds Directive (79/409/EEC)

There are two proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHA) and two Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) within 5km of the installation. The Royal Canal is located 0.3 km south of the installation and Mount Hevey Bog is 1.5 km southeast of the installation, both are proposed NHA's. Mount Hevey Bog is also designated as a SAC, as is the River Boyne and Blackwater located 2 km northeast of the unit. Mount Hevey Bog is a site of considerable conservation significance comprising a good diversity of raised bog microhabitats as well as a number of rare plant species. The River Boyne and Blackwater was selected as a SAC for the presence of alkaline fen and alluvial woodlands and for the presence of the Atlantic Salmon, Otter and River Lamprey. Emissions from the activity are not considered likely to impact any of these sites.

Best Available Techniques (BAT)

I have examined and assessed the application documentation and I am satisfied that the site, technologies and techniques specified in the application and as confirmed, modified or specified in the attached RD comply with the requirements and principles of BAT. I consider the technologies and techniques as described in the application, in this report, and in the RD, to be the most effective in achieving a high general level of protection of the environment having regard - as may be relevant - to the way the installation is located, designed, built, managed, maintained, operated and decommissioned.

Cross-office liaison

Extensive communication has taken place between the environmental licensing programme and the Office of Environmental Enforcement (OEE) in relation to licensing of the intensive

agricultural sector. Advice and guidance issued by the OEE co-ordinated Intensive Agriculture Sectoral Working Group was followed in my assessment of this application.

Fit & Proper Person Assessment

The Fit & Proper Person test requires three elements of examination, technical ability, legal standing, and financial standing. It is my view that the applicant can be deemed a Fit & Proper Person for the purpose of this licence.

Submissions

Two submissions were received in relation to the application from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and Meath County Council.

1. DEHLG Submission

The Agency received a submission on the 12th February 2009 from Ms. Mary Boothman, Development Applications Unit, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government. Ms. Boothman's submission concerns the landspreading of organic waste on surrounding farmlands within close proximity to the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC. Ms. Boothman has requested that landspreading in the surrounding area be conditioned in the licence to ensure that all landspreading is in accordance with good farming practice guidelines and spreading does not occur within 30 metres of the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC. These measures are recommended to ensure protection of a population of otter, salmon and lamprey and the habitat of the kingfisher within the SAC.

Response:

Recovery of slurry/manure shall be in accordance with the European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2009 (S.I. No. 101 of 2009) and the conditions of the RD. The recovery of slurry/manure in accordance with the above is not considered likely to have an impact on the River Boyne and River Blackwater.

2. Meath County Council Submission

The Agency received a submission on the 12th November 2009 from Meath County Council. The submission notes that the information relating to landspreading is almost 10 years old. Meath County Council states that in order to make any meaningful comment on potential impacts on surface water and groundwaters of landbanks located in County Meath they would need to see an up-to-date list of sites with accompanying location maps, soil sample results and vulnerability assessments. The Council states that, in addition, the GSI matrix for landspreading from Intensive Agricultural Enterprises should be applied to each separate landbank. Meath County Council states that based on the information as supplied, it is not in a position to make an informed comment on this application.

Response:

Meath County Council's submission was received following receipt of a copy of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared by the applicant in 2000. The EIS was submitted in support of this licence application. As the EIS was prepared in 2000 much of the information is out of date, including details of landspreading activities. The applicant provided information within the IPPC licence application which demonstrated adequate recovery capacity for slurry/manure generated on the installation. The information on landspreading provided is considered adequate and it should be noted that landspreading (recovery of slurry/manure) shall be undertaken in accordance with the requirements set out in the European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2009 (S.I. No. 101 of 2009) and the conditions of the RD (Condition 8).

Recommended Determination (RD)

The RD gives effect to the requirements of the POE Act 2003. The RD has regard to submissions made.

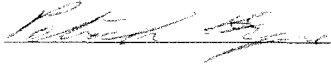
Charges

The recommended annual charge for the activity is €4,004 based on the predicted enforcement effort.

Recommendation

I recommend that a Proposed Determination be issued subject to the conditions as drafted in the RD.

Signed



Patrick Byrne

Procedural Note

In the event that no objections are received to the Proposed Determination of the application, a licence will be granted in accordance with Section 87(4) of the Environmental Protection Agency Acts 1992 and 2003 as soon as may be after the expiration of the appropriate period.

