



**OFFICE OF CLIMATE,  
LICENSING & RESOURCE  
USE.**

**INSPECTORS REPORT ON A WASTE WATER DISCHARGE  
CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORISATION APPLICATION**

|              |   |                                    |                  |
|--------------|---|------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>To:</b>   | Frank Clinton, Programme Manager, ELP   |                                    |                  |
| <b>From:</b> | Yvonne English  | <b>Environmental<br/>Programme</b> | <b>Licensing</b> |
| <b>Date:</b> | 06 May 2011   |                                    |                  |
| <b>Re:</b>   | Application for a Waste Water Discharge Authorisation from Meath County Council, for the agglomeration named Castletown, Reg. No. A0044-01. |                                    |                  |

| Application Details                                |   |
|--|---|
| Schedule of Discharge Authorised:                  | Discharges from agglomerations with a population equivalent less than 500 |
| Certificate of Authorisation Application Received: | 22 December 2009  |
| Submission(s) Received:                            | Yes   |

This application relates to the Castletown agglomeration in County Meath. The agglomeration currently has a population equivalent (p.e.) of 152. The agglomeration is serviced by one waste water treatment plant (WWTP). The WWTP provides secondary treatment, consisting of an activated sludge process, and has a design capacity of 200 p.e.

The WWTP discharges to Killary river. Based on the nearest EPA water quality monitoring station, 325 meters downstream, the biological Q-value is Q3-4 (sampled in 2006).

There is a drinking water abstraction point located within 10 km downstream of the discharge(s) from the agglomeration. The Recommended Certificate of Authorisation (RCoA) includes a condition whereby the Certificate of Authorisation holder shall immediately notify the group responsible for downstream abstraction points of any incidents in the agglomeration. The RCoA also specifies that the Authorisation holder shall prepare a risk assessment for the protection of downstream abstraction points within 12 months of the date of grant of the Certificate of Authorisation, the risk assessment shall address as a minimum the identification and minimisation of risks. The measures identified shall be implemented within twelve months thereafter.

The receiving water has been identified as being less than good status (Biological Q value <4). It is acknowledged that the discharge(s) from the agglomeration may not be the only cause of the waterbody being less than good status. The RCoA states that within twelve months the authorisation holder shall identify appropriate improvements to the wastewater works, including a waste water treatment system necessary to ensure all discharge(s) from the agglomeration contribute towards achieving at least good status in accordance with the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 and/or the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010.

The certificate of authorisation applicant was required to complete a screening of the potential impact of the discharge(s) from the agglomeration on the designated European Site(s) downstream of the agglomeration. The certificate of authorisation applicant carried out a screening which identified that the discharge(s) was not likely to have a significant impact on a European site.

The discharge(s) from the agglomeration are considered not likely to have a significant impact on the receiving waterbody subject to the Certificate of Authorisation Holder complying with the conditions of the RCoA.

### **Submissions**

A submission was received from Mr. Pat Doherty, Eastern Regional Fisheries Board (now known as Inland Fisheries Ireland), on the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2010. This letter details areas of concern for Inland Fisheries Ireland in relation to the discharge including lack of flow data, lack of physico-chemical and biological data in the receiving water. Mr. Doherty also states that it is necessary for the applicant to prove adequate capacity in the receiving water to prevent a deleterious impact on fish populations and fish habitat as a result of this effluent discharge. Mr. Doherty also states that, *"the applicant has not addressed the Surface Water Regulations in the application"*.

Mr. Doherty also highlights that the Castletown waste water treatment plant discharges treated effluent to a tributary of the Killary River and not to a tributary of the River Dee as stated in the application. Mr. Doherty states that the Killary River contains a valuable salmonid spawning and nursery habitat.

### **Response**

The certificate of authorisation as drafted states that within twelve months the authorisation holder shall identify appropriate improvements to the sewerage system, including a waste water treatment system necessary to ensure all discharges from the agglomeration contribute towards achieving at least good status in accordance with the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009.

The certificate of authorisation as drafted also states that the waste water works shall be operated in accordance with best practice to ensure that discharges from the works do not cause environmental pollution or deterioration in the status of the receiving surface water body which will ensure that there is no deleterious impact on fish populations as a result of effluent discharge.

The certificate of authorisation as drafted sets a requirement for sampling and analysis of the primary discharge for certain parameters. The certificate of authorisation also states that the

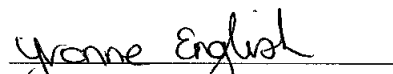
location, frequency, method and scope of the monitoring may be amended with the agreement of the Agency following evaluation of test results.

The applicant clarified in a Regulation 25 response received by the Agency on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2011 that the effluent from the Casteltown WWTP drains to the Killary River.

**Recommendation**

I recommend that a Final Certificate of Authorisation be issued subject to the conditions and for the reasons as set out in the attached Recommended Certificate of Authorisation.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yvonne English', is written over a horizontal line.

Yvonne English

Inspector

Office of Climate, Licensing and Resource Use

