To: Directors

From: Patrick Byrne - LICENSING UNIT

Date: 7th June 2012

RE: Application for an IPPC Licence from Hillside Poultry Limited, Licence Register P0928-01

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Application Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class of activity:</th>
<th>The rearing of poultry in installations, whether within the same complex or within 100 metres of the same complex, where the capacity exceeds 40,000 places. 6.6(a)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Category of Activity under IPPC Directive (2008/1/EC):</td>
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<tr>
<td>Licence application received:</td>
<td>22nd December 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notices under Article 11(2)(b)(ii) issued:</td>
<td>2nd February 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information under Article 11(2)(b)(ii) received:</td>
<td>29th July 2011, 6th February 2012</td>
</tr>
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<td>EIS received:</td>
<td>22nd December 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notices under Article 14(2)(b) issued:</td>
<td>2nd February 2011, 17 February 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information under Article 14(2)(b) received:</td>
<td>16th April 2012</td>
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<td>Submissions received:</td>
<td>HSE 9th February 2011</td>
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<td>Site notice inspected:</td>
<td>20th January 2011</td>
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<td>Site visits:</td>
<td>20th January 2011</td>
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Background

Hillside Poultry Limited operates a poultry rearing installation at Derrygola, Emyvale, Co. Monaghan. Hillside Poultry Limited is registered with the Companies Registration Office (CRO), CRO No. 234931. The installation is managed by Mr Thomas Ward, who is a Director of Hillside Poultry Limited. The site is located
approximately 4km west of Emyvale. Planning permission was granted in 1995 for development of 2 poultry rearing buildings with a capacity of 70,000 places and further planning permission was granted June 2008 for an addition 2 poultry houses with a capacity of 70,000 places. Planning permission as granted limits the capacity of the installation (4 houses) to 140,000 places, the EIS which supported the planning application and IPPC Licence application relates to 140,000 places.

The IPPC licence application identifies that the activity was operated as a 70,000-75,000 places at the time the licence application was submitted. One of the proposed two additional houses was constructed at the time of submission of the licence application. In the licence application it is stated that the capacity of the four poultry rearing houses when constructed would be 140,000 - 150,000 places.

The planning history of the site, in relation to poultry rearing buildings, is as follows:

- Ref. 95/137: planning permission granted for ‘erection of two poultry houses, extension of slatted house and erection of hayshed’.
- Ref 07/2183: planning application to ‘erect two no. poultry units, underground washing storage tanks, vertical meal bins, nitrate storage holdings, use existing agricultural entrance and all ancillary site works within existing farmyard complex. The planning application was supported by an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and a copy of the EIS has been submitted in support of this IPPC licence application. Planning permission was granted in June 2008.

The installation is located in a rural location, the nearest dwelling houses are approximately 250 metres north and south east of the installation.

The installation is managed by Mr Thomas Ward. Poultry rearing on-site is continuous but most activities, including deliveries of feed, bedding material, chicks and collection of finished birds, carcasses, etc., occur between 6.00 a.m. and 8.00 p.m.

**Process Description**

The licensable activity involves the rearing of chicks from day-old through to slaughter weight. The reared birds are then transported off site for slaughter and processing.

Prior to the delivery of chicks to the installation the entire floor area in the existing poultry house is bedded with wood shavings, and the heating system (LPG fuelled) is turned on to warm the building for receipt of a new batch of chicks. Day old chickens are delivered to the installation from a hatchery and placed in the broiler houses on-site. The birds are fed a wheat-based animal feed; the constituents of the animal feed are adjusted to suit the growth stage of the birds during the 35-52 days when they are on-site. Heating is supplied for the first two to three weeks after which the birds generate sufficient heat. From approximately day 35 a percentage of the birds may be removed from the houses and taken for slaughter, the balance of the birds are removed for slaughter over the following days. When all the birds have been removed from the houses the poultry litter is removed and transported off-site for recovery.

The applicant has identified in the application that the current practice is for poultry litter to be taken off-site for use in the production of mushroom compost, where the poultry litter is used as a fertiliser. The applicant also identifies that poultry litter is a valuable organic fertiliser, which may be applied to land as a
replacement for inorganic fertiliser, subject to the requirements of the European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 610 of 2010).

The cleaning of the broiler houses after a batch of chickens has been removed firstly involves removal of the poultry litter by mechanical loader, the floor is then swept and washed with water. Washwater is collected in underground storage tanks (27m³ associated with original two houses and 50m³ associated with the proposed houses) additional storage is also available on applicants farm, the washwater is recovered as fertiliser on the applicants farm. The poultry rearing house is disinfected and left to dry for approximately two weeks at which stage the cycle re-starts.

**Emissions**

The main emissions from the activity are odour and dust emissions from the buildings' ventilation system, poultry litter (which is currently sent to producers of mushroom compost as a fertiliser but may in the future be used as an agricultural fertiliser), and washwater (which is recovered on the applicants farm).

**Emissions to Air**

Ventilation air from the poultry houses represents the most significant air emission. The rate of ventilation emissions will increase relative to the age of the birds, ambient temperature, etc. An automated forced ventilation system is used in the broiler houses. The main contaminants that are present in the ventilation emissions are odours, dust and ammonia. Poultry litter removal represents the most significant odour and dust emission potential, however the removal of litter only occurs once in every 8 to 10 week cycle (6-8 weeks production plus 2 weeks empty).

The nearest sensitive locations (dwelling houses) are located between 100-150 metres of the site. There are a number of control measures currently in place to minimise potential odour emissions. These include: litter management, use of adequate bedding material, appropriate stocking densities, quality of ventilation and house design, and minimisation of carcasses by maintaining flock health to a high standard. The applicant states that there have been no complaints of odour from neighbours of the site, and it is considered that good housekeeping measures will minimise emissions. The installation has planning permission to operate at 140,000 places, when four houses are constructed.

The heating system in the broiler house is fuelled on LPG. The back-up generator is diesel-fuelled but is only used as an emergency back up to the electricity supply.

**Emissions to Sewer**

There are no emissions to sewer from this installation.

**Emissions to Waters**

There are no process emissions to water from this installation.

**Surface Water**

All poultry rearing activities take place inside the broiler houses. The only period when there is potential for poultry litter/manure to contaminate the surface water run-off is during poultry litter/manure removal, i.e. once every 8 to 10 week cycle.
Surface water run-off arises on site from yards and building roofs. Surface water run-off from the installation should be uncontaminated and therefore should have no impact on surface water quality off-site. This surface water run-off is not, and will not be permitted to flow over soiled areas. All clean surface water run-off is collected in the stormwater collection system and discharges via SW-1 and SW-2 discharge/monitoring locations on the eastern boundary of the site. The surface water discharges into a field drain which drains approximately 500 meters east to a tributary of the Mountain Water River, the tributary enters the Mountain water approximately 1.25km south of the installation.

Condition 6.8 of the RD requires the licensee to divert all uncontaminated surface water run-off from roofs and non-contaminated impervious areas of the site, to the surface water drainage system. The licensee is required to provide and maintain inspection chambers at the outlets of the surface water drainage system. Schedule C.2.3 requires weekly visual inspection and BOD/COD monitoring as required by the Agency at SW-1 and SW-2.

The site is located in the Mountain Water River Catchment in the Neagh Bann International River Basin District. The uncontaminated surface water from the installation is directed to a field drain at the eastern side of the site. The installation is within the catchment of the Mountain Water River Catchment (tributary of the Blackwater), IE XB_03_6. The overall status of the catchment is 'Poor' and overall risk category is 1a at risk of not achieving good status. The overall objective is to restore to good status by 2021.

**Emissions to Ground**

There are no process emissions to ground from the activity. There is no septic tank/percolation area at this installation. In accordance with the Water Framework Directive the groundwater at the site and surrounding area is within the Aughnacloy waterbody, the overall status is good and risk category 2b 'water body is not at risk'. The RD requires the storage of all liquid fuels, chemicals, etc., in bunded areas to avoid the risk of spillage. The RD requires groundwater monitoring to be undertaken at AGW1, on site well, located at the southern boundary of the site.

**Waste**

There shall be no waste disposal/recovery activities undertaken on-site. Waste arising on-site includes animal carcasses, domestic refuse, packaging, waste veterinary containers and fluorescent tubes. Animal carcasses, animal by products, arise from mortalities associated with the rearing of poultry. The carcasses are stored on site temporarily in covered, leak-proof bins pending collection and transport to College Proteins (Reg. No. P0037-03) where they are rendered in accordance with the Animal By-Products Regulations. The RD specifies a removal frequency of at least fortnightly for animal tissue and carcasses from the installation.

The RD requires that transportation of waste shall be by an authorised waste contractor or an exempted person, to the site of recovery/disposal in accordance with the appropriate National and European legislation and protocols. It also requires that a full record on waste management operations and practices be maintained at the site and be available for inspection.

**Manure/Poultry Litter**
Manure/poultry litter is generated as part of the poultry rearing activity. The poultry litter is currently removed from the installation by George Coulson & Son, Tircooney, Clones, Co. Monaghan, and transported to mushroom compost production facilities where it is used as fertiliser.

Hillside Poultry limited have received planning permission to construct a manure store on-site. As the poultry litter/manure is removed off-site to a composting facility, the applicant is exempt from the requirement to demonstrate a capacity to store 26 weeks of poultry litter/manure, as per condition 3.6 of the RD. Should the applicant wish to supply the poultry litter/manure to local farmers as fertiliser, then the RD requires that 26 weeks manure storage capacity be provided on-site or at an agreed storage location, as required under the European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2010. The provisions of the RD require that any run-off/seepage from the temporary storage of the poultry litter/manure on-site are collected and managed in an appropriate manner.

The RD provides for the use of poultry litter/manure as a fertiliser on land in accordance with the European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 610 of 2010) and the conditions of the RD. All movements of poultry litter/manure shall be recorded in an ‘organic fertiliser register’ and the record of all movements shall be submitted to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine annually, and maintained on site.

Washwater

Washwater arising from wash down of the broiler house is collected in underground storage tanks (27m³ associated with original two houses and 50m³ associated with the proposed houses) and additional storage on the applicants’ farm). The installation at 140,000 birds capacity will result in the generation of approximately 32.2m³ per crop (0.23 m³ per 1,000 birds). The RD requires washwater storage capacity of a minimum of 77m³ as identified in the EIS, be provided within six months. The washwater is recovered as a fertiliser by landspreading on the applicant’s farm in accordance with the European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2010. The washwater is recovered on the applicants farmland. The RD specifies requirements associated with washwater storage, such as high level indicators and minimum tank freeboard requirements.

Poultry litter/manure and washwater, when used as fertiliser in accordance with the European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2010 and the conditions of the RD are not considered likely to cause environmental pollution. The RD requires the applicant to maintain records of all movements of organic fertiliser, including washwater, off-site to the satisfaction of the Agency and in accordance with the European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2010.

Noise

The activity is located in a rural area of County Monaghan. The activities carried out at this installation are not likely to result in significant noise emissions. The nearest noise sensitive locations (dwelling houses) are located 250m from the site. Schedule B.4 Noise Emissions specifies the standard noise emission limit values of 55 dB(A) (daytime) and 45 dB(A) (night-time) at any noise sensitive location. The RD requires that the applicant carryout a noise survey of site operations as required by the Agency.
Use of Resources

The operation of the installation involves the consumption of water, feed, gas, electricity and medication. The amount of electricity and gas (LPG) used for heating the houses on the site varies depending on the time of year and weather conditions, on average 40-45 litres of gas is used per 1,000 birds. A back-up generator is used if there is a disruption in the electrical power supply. It is estimated that 3.8 – 4.0 tonnes of feed and 7 m³ of water is used per 1000 birds produced. Water supply to the farm is from a private well, located on site labelled as AGW-1, and the Truagh Group Water Scheme. The water supply to the broilers will be via a nipple drinking system which ensures efficient water consumption.

Condition 7 of the RD includes conditions dealing with water, energy and raw material use, reduction and efficiency on site. The RD requires annual maintenance of the heating system and generator.

Compliance with EU Directives

IPPC Directive (2008/1/EC)

This installation falls within the scope of category 6.6(a) (Installations for the intensive rearing of poultry with more than 40,000 places for poultry) of Annex I of Council Directive 2008/1/EC concerning integrated pollution prevention and control. The RD takes account of the requirements of the Directive. BAT is taken to be represented by guidance given in the IPPC reference document on BAT for Intensive Rearing of Poultry and Pigs, July 2003.


The only emission to surface water from this installation is uncontaminated storm water from building roofs and the concrete yard area. The RD requires a weekly visual inspection and COD/CBOD monitoring of storm water emissions as required by the Agency. The RD requires poultry litter/manure and washwater to be managed on site and movements off-site recorded. The RD provides for the recovery of poultry manure and washwater as fertiliser or use as an input to mushroom compost production, subject to conditions included in the RD and the European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2010. These measures will aid in achieving the target of restoring good water quality in the Mountain Water (Tributary of the Blackwater) catchment.

EU Animal By-Products Regulations (EC No. 1069/2009)

Animal tissue and carcasses arise due to mortalities. These wastes shall be stored on site temporarily in leak-proof bins, and removed from the site at least fortnightly. The waste is collected and transported to College Proteins (POO37-03) where the material is rendered in accordance with the Animal By-products Regulations. Poultry litter/manure and washwater are classified as Category 2 animal by-products, in accordance with the Animal By-product Regulations.

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 2010 (S.I. No. 610 of 2010), commonly referred to as the Nitrates Regulations.

The RD specifies the minimum manure storage requirements for this installation and includes the exemption from this storage capacity as provided for under Article 13(1) of the Regulations in relation to reduced storage where manure is removed to off-site storage, the Applicant has access to a waste treatment facility for manure or the manure is transferred to an authorised (EPA Act or Waste Management Act licensed) facility. The RD provides for the landspreading of poultry manure and washwater in accordance with the licence conditions and the Nitrates Regulations. The requirements of the Nitrates Regulations apply to the landspreading of all organic fertiliser.


A screening for Appropriate Assessment was undertaken to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if the poultry rearing activity, individually or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant effect on a European Site. There is a designated Special Protection Area (SPA) and a Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) within the vicinity of the site. The SPA, Slieve Beagh, is 3.3km from this installation. The SAC, Kilroosky Lough Cluster, is 22km from the installation and the installation is within a different water catchment. In addition there are SACs and SPAs in Northern Ireland, these include Maghervelly Marl Loughs SAC, Upper Lough Erne SAC, Upper Lough Erne SPA, Slieve Beagh Mullaghfad Lisnaskea SPA and Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SPA and SAC. The screening assessment undertaken demonstrates that the activity is not likely to have significant effects on a European Site, having regard to the nature and scale of the activity and lack of connectivity with a European Site.

Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (85/337/EEC)

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was prepared in support of planning permission Ref. 07/2183, and the EIS, including further information as had been sought by the planning authority, was submitted with the IPPC licence application. I have examined the EIS and having regard to the statutory responsibilities of the EPA, I am satisfied that it complies with the EPA Licensing Regulations (S.I. No. 85 of 1994, as amended).

To complete the EIA process, I have considered the EIS, planning permission and planning inspectors report and I have assessed the EIA in relation to the environmental impacts of the operation of the activity and consider that it identifies, describes and assesses in an appropriate manner, the direct and indirect effects of the project on the factors as required in Article 3 of the EIA Directive.

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

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 to the way the installation is located, designed, built, managed, maintained, operated and decommissioned.

**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**

The Agency has received one submission in relation to this licence application:

A. Health Services Executive

It is stated in the submission that the HSE has no significant concern regarding the health impact of the proposed activity subject to the normal standards in relation to noise, air, and water pollution being applied and monitored.

*Comment:*

*The report above addresses the environmental aspects associated with the activity and the RD includes conditions to minimise the emissions associated.*

**Recommended Determination (RD)**

The RD permits the applicant to operate the poultry rearing activity in accordance with EPA Acts 1992 to 2011 and the IPPC Directive.

**Charges**

The annual charge included in the RD is €2,570.90 which is considered appropriate to cover the costs associated with enforcement of the RD.

**Recommendation**

I recommend that a Proposed Determination be issued subject to the conditions and for the reasons 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 2011 as soon as may be after the expiration of the appropriate period.