

***Extract from the Minutes of the 702nd Licensing Meeting of the
Environmental Protection Agency, held on 10th July 2012
at EPA Headquarters, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford***

1. The 702nd Licensing Meeting of the Agency was held on 10 July 2012, in EPA Headquarters, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford.

Directors Present: L Burke (Chair).
M Ó Cinnéide, D Lynott, M Crowe & G O’Leary.

5. ***Notification B/IE/12/01 – Deliberate Release of Genetically Modified Potatoes***

Notifier: **Teagasc
Oak Park
County Carlow**
GMO Register No.: **G0469-01**

The Directors considered documentation from the Office of Climate, Licensing and Resource Use concerning Notification B/IE/12/01 from Teagasc, seeking a consent for a deliberate release into the environment of genetically modified (GM) potatoes, for purposes other than placing on the market (field trials) under Article 14 of the Genetically Modified Organisms (Deliberate Release) Regulations – S.I. No 500 of 2003, which transposes Directive 2001/18/EC on the deliberate release into the environment of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) into Irish law.

The Inspector’s Report, dated 27 June 2012 and two addenda to the Inspector’s Report dated 2 July 2012 and 9 July 2012, detailed the background to the Notification, GMO technology and Irish legislation relating to GMO deliberate releases. The Directors noted that 83 valid representations were received under Article 16(1) of the GMO (Deliberate Release) Regulations, S.I. No 500 of 2003 and all of the concerns raised were dealt with in the Inspector’s Report. It was noted that the field trial is proposed for one location at the Teagasc Crops Research Centre, Oak Park, County Carlow.

The Inspector dealing with the application had considered all the documentation submitted in relation to the Notification, including all of the representations made by the public and the expert opinions received by the EPA, and recommended that the Agency grant a consent, subject to the conditions and reasons for decision set out in the ‘Draft’ Consent Conditions in accordance with Article 18(5) GMO (Deliberate Release) Regulations 2003, S.I. 500 of 2003 and Article 6 of Directive 2001/18/EC having regard to Articles 18(2), 18(3) and 18(4) of the aforementioned Regulations.

Draft Consent Conditions

The Directors approved the ‘draft’ Consent Conditions, subject to the following amendments:

Decision

Amend first sentence as follows; ‘The Environmental Protection Agency, in exercise of the powers release of GM potato *line* (potato strain set out in the conditions attached hereto.’

Reason For The Decision

Amend first paragraph as follows; ‘The Environmental Protection Agency is satisfied, health and the environment *from the deliberate release of the GM potato line (potato strain Solanum tuberosum cv. Desiree transformed with the Rpi gene, Rpi-vnt1.1, from wild potato species Solanum venturii along with its native promoter and terminator to produce the cisgenic line A15-031) into the environment.*’

Insert new second paragraph as follows ‘*Having regard to the location of the deliberate release field trial at Teagasc, Oak Park, Co. Carlow, and the proximity of the field trial to nearby receptors, the nature of the field trial as well as the processes to be undertaken in the operation and management of the field trial as described in the Notification, it is considered that the field trial, if managed, operated and controlled in accordance with the consent conditions will not result in the contravention of any relevant environmental quality standard or cause environmental pollution.*’

Amend third paragraph as follows; ‘In reaching this decision, the Agency to this notification *from the applicant*, including, all of the representations received on the *notification*, the report of its inspector *and any other relevant material.*’

Conditions

- 2.3. Amend condition as follows; ‘The field trial an area of 2 hectares (4.942 acres) in size in any given year.’
- 3.1.1.1. Insert new condition as follows; ‘Site map.’
- 3.1.1.1. Renumber existing condition 3.1.1.1 as 3.1.1.2 and renumber all subsequent conditions accordingly.
- 3.1.2. Amend condition as follows; ‘SOPs as outlined under 3.1.1. must be submitted to the EPA for approval at least one week in advance of commencement of the field trial. The SOPs must be made available of the trial.’
- 3.1.3. Amend condition as follows; ‘... ..by Agency personnel or nominated agent.’
- 3.1.4. Amend condition as follows; ‘The trial site(s) must be defined and measured by GPS in respect subsequent years.’
- 4.1.3. The second instance of condition 4.1.3. should be renumbered to 4.1.4.
- 5.1. Insert full stop at the end of the condition.
- 5.2. Insert full stop at the end of the condition.
- 5.3. Amend condition as follows; ‘*The site map, the SOPs as outlined under 3.1.1. and a copy of the trial site plan for each site shall be sent to the Agency in a format to be agreed at least one week the experimental plots.*’
- 5.6. Amend last sentence of condition as follows; ‘These records shall be retained available to the Agency, or nominated agent, on request.’
- 5.6.5. Amend condition as follows; ‘dates of inspections details of any findings *including the number of volunteers (groundkeepers) that emerged and how they were dealt with.*’
- 5.8. Amend second sentence of condition as follows; ‘This report shall include with conditions 3.3 and 3.5 and shall were dealt with.’

- 5.9 Amend condition as follows; ‘Further to completion of the deliberate release field trial,on or before the 23rd December.’
- 6.1 Amend first sentence of condition as follows; ‘The notifier based on conventional *Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)*.’
- 8.1 Amend condition as follows; ‘The notifier, Teagasc, shall pay the EPA €9,233.41three years (2012, 2013 & 2014). €3,398 shall be paid 2012 and €2,918 shall be paid in 2014.’
- 8.2 Insert new condition as follows; ‘*The notifier shall also be responsible for any further costs properly incurred by the Agency during the term of the field trial.*’

Annex 1

Amend third row of Annex 1 as follows;

2012 – 2015 inclusive 2016 (in the event that planting takes place during 2016)	1 week prior to planting (each year)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The trial site fixed points measurement <i>as per condition 3.1.4.</i> • <i>The site map, the SOPs as outlined under condition 3.1.1. and a copy of the trial site plan for the site showing the location of the GM tubers / plantlets and the non-GM comparator tubers / plantlets in the experimental plots</i> • The proposed date for planting
---	---	--

The Directors delegated the power to sign off all Standard Operating Procedures and the experimental trial site plan relating to this Field Trial to Environmental Licensing Programme (Director; Programme Manager; Level 2). Following discussion, and based on the information before them, the Directors approved the recommendation of the Office of Climate, Licensing and Resource Use that consent be given to Teagasc for the field trial, subject to the conditions as set out in the Draft Consent.