

Our Ref: 09.PC0106

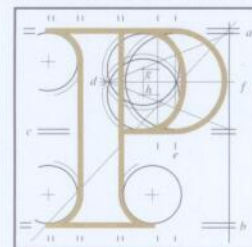
Your Ref:

Helen O'Keeffe,
AOS Planning,
2nd Floor,
The Courtyard,
25 Great Strand Street,
Dublin 1.

12 MAY 2011

11th May 2011

An Bord Pleanála



Re: Proposed Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) Facility
On The Site Of The Existing Drehid Waste Management Facility In
County Kildare.

Dear Madam,

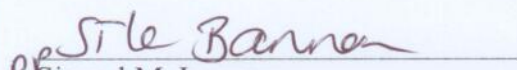
I have been asked by An Bord Pleanála to refer further to the
above-mentioned pre-application consultation request.

Please find enclosed a copy of the written record of the second meeting of
the 27th April 2011 which is marked 'Private and Confidential' for your
information.

If you have any queries in relation to the matter please contact the
undersigned officer of the Board.

Please quote the above-mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in
any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,


Sinead McInerney
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737295

Encls.

PC07.LTR



64 Sráid Maoilbhríde,
Baile Átha Cliath 1.

Tel: (01) 858 8100
LoCall: 1890 275 175
Fax: (01) 872 2684
Web: <http://www.pleanala.ie>
email: bord@pleanala.ie

64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1.

Written Record of the second pre-application consultation meeting between An Bord Pleanála and Bord na Móna (the prospective applicant) held in relation to a proposed Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) facility on the site of the existing Drehid Waste Management Facility, Co. Kildare.

- **Venue:** Conference Room, An Bord Pleanála
- **Date:** 27th April 2011, 11.30 a.m.

Present:

Representing An Bord Pleanála

Philip Jones, Assistant Director of Planning
Pauline Fitzpatrick, Senior Planning Inspector
Marcella Doyle, Senior Executive Officer
Sinéad McInerney, Executive Officer

**PRIVATE &
CONFIDENTIAL**

Representing the Prospective Applicant

John Connolly, Infrastructure Development Manager, Bord na Móna
Pat O'Neill, Senior Projects Engineer, Bord na Móna
Helen O'Keeffe, Planning Consultant, AOS Planning Ltd
Ciara Kellett, Planning Consultant, AOS Planning Ltd
Siobhán Tinnelly, Senior Scientist/Hydrogeologist, Tobin Consulting Engineers

- The meeting was chaired by Philip Jones.

Introduction

The teams were introduced. The Board referred to the prospective applicant's letter dated 5th April 2011 in relation to the record of the first pre-application consultation meeting held on 7th December 2011. The Board stated the record of the meeting is the Board's record which was issued to the prospective applicant for information purposes only and was not an agreed minute of the meeting. However, the prospective applicant's letter of 5th April 2011 and its comments in relation to the record of the meeting will be retained on file.

Current Status of Proposed Development

The prospective applicant stated that it has visited a number of MBT facilities in Europe in recent months. It has carried out an assessment of the most appropriate technology to use in the proposed facility, including mechanical treatment, composting and dry anaerobic digestion. Based on the outcome of the assessment, the prospective applicant has not yet made a definitive decision on use of technology to be employed in the proposed facility.

A critical aspect of the decision on the technology to be employed relates to economic incentives for use of biogas generated in dry anaerobic digestion. REFIT – Renewable Energy Feed In Tariff – provides reference prices for converting biomass into electricity, and in Ireland rates are significantly lower when compared to corresponding schemes in other European states e.g. Northern Ireland and Italy. At present it is not economically viable to employ such technology within the proposed development.

The prospective applicant also notes An Bord Pleanála's comments on the Draft Statement Waste Policy with specific regard to anaerobic digestion whereby such technology is considered desirable, but notes that it is not financially feasible for municipal wastes at present.

Proposed Planning Application

A discussion took place in relation to the nature of the proposed facility.

It is envisaged that the facility will process municipal waste which will be subject to mechanical treatment, followed by biological treatment, to include composting with potential to develop dry anaerobic digestion. This will generate MBT outputs with potential for biogas and electricity generation.

It is acknowledged that an outlet is required to treat municipal waste and while it is technically possible to develop dry anaerobic digestion, it is not economically viable at current REFIT rates. However the prospective applicant's preference is to secure planning permission for a facility where biological treatment could include both composting and dry anaerobic digestion, with dry anaerobic digestion more likely being developed at a later date, if economic conditions favoured it.

The prospective applicant proposes to include provision for dry anaerobic digestion in its application, and account for both types of treatment in its environmental impact assessment. It is proposed to set out two fully detailed design options in the application and ensure that the facility, if permitted, is fully assessed. The prospective applicant stressed that it wishes to have the option to develop dry anaerobic digestion technology at a later stage.

The Board raised a concern in relation to lack of clarity in such an approach to an application. A discussion followed on the possibility of lodging two concurrent applications – one for a facility that includes dry anaerobic digestion, and one without. The prospective applicant's preference would be to lodge one application assessing both designs. It considers that the Board have previously dealt with applications that adopted such an approach.

The Board reiterated its concerns over lack of clarity on such an application. Text and drawings would have to be clearly presented, and an environmental impact assessment is required to cover both aspects. No element of the assessment may be deferred to a later stage.

In construction terms, it was stated by the prospective applicant that the majority of the development will be the same, with some minor additions if dry anaerobic digestion is developed e.g percolation storage tanks, connection to electricity grid.

The Board stressed that the maximum size of waste to be treated is required to be clearly stated in any application and all potential environmental impacts are required to be assessed in full.

Closure of Pre-application Consultation

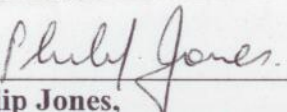
When no further meetings are required, the prospective applicant will write to the Board requesting closure of the pre-application consultation. The Board will then issue its notice on whether the proposed development is or is not strategic infrastructure development

within the meaning of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. The pre-application consultation file will become available to the public three days following the Board's decision.

Conclusion

The prospective applicant will revert to the Board with a summary of how it proposes to present the application for the proposed development, and referencing previous applications decided by the Board that considered two approaches to a development. Upon receipt, the strategic infrastructure division of the Board will be asked to comment and also give a preliminary view on whether the proposed development is strategic infrastructure. A further meeting will then be arranged.

The meeting concluded at 12.30 p.m.


Philip Jones,
Assistant Director of Planning
10th May 2011.