

**Our Ref:** 09.PC0106

**Your Ref:**

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

24 JAN 2011

21st January 2011

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

Dear Madam,

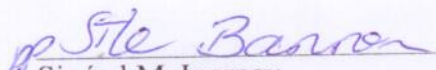
I have been asked by An Bord Pleanála to refer further to the above-mentioned pre-application consultation request.

Please find enclosed a copy of the written record of the first meeting of the 7th December 2010 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.

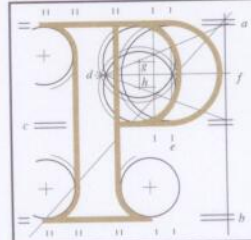
Please quote the above-mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,

  
Sinéad McInerney  
Executive Officer

PC07.LTR

An Bord Pleanála



64 Sráid Maoilbhríde,  
Baile Átha Cliath 1.

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64 Marlborough Street,  
Dublin 1.

**Written Record of the first 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:** 07<sup>th</sup> December, 2010 (2.35 p.m.)

**Present:**

**Representing An Bord Pleanála**

Philip Jones, Assistant Director of Planning  
Pauline Fitzpatrick, Senior Planning Inspector  
Diarmuid Collins, Senior Administrative Officer  
Caroline Treacy, Administrative Assistant

**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.

- The meeting was chaired by Philip Jones.

**Introduction**

Both the Board's and the prospective applicant's teams were introduced (see appendices 1 and 2 for a list of attendees).

The Board informed the prospective applicant that this meeting is an information gathering exercise, and that it may seek to recover any costs that it has incurred during the pre-application consultation process. The Planning and Development Act, 2010 allows for such cost recovery procedures to be enacted.

**Presentation of the Prospective Applicant/Questions**

The prospective applicant made a powerpoint presentation (see hard copy at appendix 3) outlining its main business activities, its vision and the project history of the waste management facility, as well as a general overview of the Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) infrastructure. The prospective applicant also identified the reasons why the proposed development is considered to be strategic infrastructure.

The prospective applicant considers the proposal comes within the ambit of the Seventh Schedule under an installation for the disposal, treatment or recovery of waste with a capacity for an annual intake greater than 100,000 tonnes.

The prospective applicant considers that it meets the criteria of section 37A(2) under (a) i.e. the development will be of strategic economic or social importance to the state or the



region in which it would be situated, (b) would contribute to the fulfilment of objectives in the National Spatial Strategy and (c) would involve planning authorities other than Kildare County Council.

The prospective applicant wishes to meet the requirements of the EPA's newly introduced waste licence conditions and the targets established by the EU Landfill Directive which apply since July 2010, in relation to progressively decreasing the amount of biodegradable waste sent to landfill. With regard to the 7<sup>th</sup> schedule requirements, the proposed developments' capacity of circa 250,000 tonnes far exceeds the 100,000 tonnes per annum required capacity. Due to the size of the proposed facility, the prospective applicant feels that it is of significant regional and national importance, with a significant economic investment to the region.

The prospective applicants' Resource Recovery business at Timahoe Bog is accessible by a network of national primary and motorway routes. The existing facility deals with waste from the household, commercial and industrial sectors and the proposed MBT treatment facility will complement this facility without any modifications to permitted facilities.

The MBT process generally involves a mechanical extraction and refinement of biodegradable and recyclable materials followed by biological treatment of the biodegradable materials by composting and/or anaerobic digestion, in order to reduce the volume of waste which requires landfill or incineration.

The prospective applicant stated that its main priorities are the diversion of waste from landfill: - a minimum of a 65% reduction in biodegradable waste being sent to landfill and an 80% reduction in methane emissions. The exact combination of accepted waste materials will determine the likely output to landfill and what can be recycled and exported. The applicant is currently investigating different methods of waste processing, which will consist of biodegradable material that may be of a compost-like output (for landfill cover or mine-tailing restorations) or may be a biostabilised waste material for consignment to landfill.

The Environmental Protection Agency's requirements dictate that the prospective applicant focuses on its biostabilised waste practices, e.g. removing certain plastics, metals, ferrous and non-ferrous materials, but there is also some potential to export fossil fuels and send solid fuels to cement kilns in Ireland and abroad, such as the cement factories in Westmeath, Limerick, Meath and Northern Ireland.

The prospective applicant foresees that the application will be made to the Board by mid-2011, as some baseline work has already been carried out. Clarification was sought by the Board as to whether and when further and more detailed information will be provided by the prospective applicant on specific elements of the proposed development such as the preferred biological treatment process to be utilised.

Including the extension of allowable waste material, the total permitted tonnage currently at the Drehid Facility is 360,000 tonnes per annum, and the exact combination of materials sourced will determine the output likely to go to landfill. The prospective applicant informed the Board that it would not be seeking to increase the maximum intake capacity of the facility in the application.



The Board advised that clarity on this matter will need to be provided in the application and should be clearly conveyed in the public notices for the public's information. The public notices should also include grid connection proposals.

The prospective applicant verified that clarity would be provided on area size and type of collection (domestic or trade) in the application, and that the landscape and visual assessment in the EIS would confirm the actual building area and height of the facility. The prospective applicant agreed to provide as much certainty as possible at the next meeting. The applicant was advised by the Board that the benefits afforded by the pre-application process will depend on the prospective applicants providing this information.

Considerations such as transportation of materials in terms of pail load, and traffic impact into and out of the site also need to be taken into account in the new EIA process. The 125,000 tonnes of waste per annum that is currently being collected will increase by either merger or acquisition over the project timescale, and this also needs to be taken into consideration. The N4 and N7 routes were stress-tested at 100% in each direction, which was well above the average traffic figures in the last application process, but the prospective applicant advised that these figures will now be updated, and will include the MBT element as this issue generated a great deal of interest in the last application process.

Energy recovery issues were also discussed. The prospective applicant stated that the electricity power lines are off-site and will be reconnected. As the grid connection will be updated in the future and the landfill will be generating power before the MBT Facility comes into play, fully optimising the application process will entail considering the location of the current power lines.

The Board expressed its concern at the lack of detailed information being submitted at this stage, and advised that the rationale behind the Biological Treatment Process should be fully explained and robustly detailed in subsequent pre-application consultation meetings. The differences in relation to the Anaerobic Disgestion versus Simple Composting methods should be analysed and shortlisted as soon as possible in the process, as the chosen technology could have implications on the design of the facility, traffic and other such factors.

## **Conclusion**

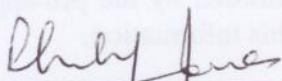
It was conveyed by the Board that the pre-application consultation process is in place to firstly determine whether or not a proposed development constitutes strategic infrastructure development (SID) and secondly for the Board to advise the prospective applicant of the procedures involved and specific considerations to be aware of prior to the actual application. The main issue to be firmed up at this stage by the prospective applicant prior to the next meeting is that of the composting technologies that it has shortlisted.

The Board stated that transport matters will be a significant consideration, and it would expect a detailed traffic analysis to be prepared as part of any application.

The Board stressed that for completeness in the process, it would prefer more detailed information with one definite composting method, as this will most likely raise further issues at application stage, but if the Environmental Impact Assessment covers all eventualities and worst case scenarios at an appropriate level of detail, the Board may be willing to proceed with the pre-application process.

The prospective applicant undertook to revert to the Board early in 2011 in relation to organising a further meeting, as it is anticipated that advanced studies and impact assessments for the various issues outlined above will be available to the Board at that stage. The Board stated that any further information could be forwarded by the prospective applicant in advance of the meeting for consideration by the Board.

The meeting concluded at 16.05 p.m.



**Philip Jones,**  
**Assistant Director of Planning**  
**18<sup>th</sup> January 2011**