

Appendix 1A: EIA Screening Report

Castletroy Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade - EIA Screening

Introduction

This assessment examines whether the proposed development at Castletroy Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) should be subject to EIA and if an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) is required.

Upgrade works are proposed at the existing Castletroy WWTP to increase the capacity from 39,000PE to 81,100PE, constituting a 108% capacity increase. The scope of works will involve a new stormwater tank, additional inlet screens, primary treatment works, associated pipework, and replacement of existing chemical dosing system and sludge dewatering infrastructure.

Screening assessment

The first step in the EIA process is to determine if an EIA needs to be undertaken or not. Projects requiring Environmental Impact Assessment are transposed from the EU EIA Directive into Irish Legislation through Section 172 of the Planning Acts. An initial determination is to be undertaken to examine whether the proposal is a project as understood by this transposition of the directive. If a proposed project is not of a class covered, there is no statutory requirement for it to be subject to EIA. Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 – 2018 (the Regulations), details the classes and thresholds of development which require an EIA. Part 1 of Schedule 5 outlines the types of development for which an EIA is mandatory, and Part 2 outlines thresholds for other projects which also require an EIA.

The proposed development is considered under Part 1, Class 13, of the Regulations, "*Waste water treatment plants with a capacity exceeding 150,000 population equivalent as defined in Article 2, point (6), of Directive 91/271/EEC*". However, having a capacity of 81,100PE, which is below the limit of 150,000, it consequently does not fall under Part 1 Class 13.

The proposed development is considered under Part 2, Class 13, (a), "*Any change or extension of development which would (i) result in the development being of a class listed in Part 1 or paragraphs 1 to 12 of Part 2 of this Schedule, and (ii) result in size greater than 25%, or an amount equal to 50% of the appropriate threshold, whichever is the greater*". The proposed development constitutes an extension to an existing WWTP (39,000PE) and will result in a 108% increase in capacity (81,100PE). The resulting development will fall under Class 11 (c) and is greater than 25% of the existing capacity.

Part 2 Class 11 (c) is described as "*Waste water treatment plants with a capacity greater than 10,000 population equivalent as defined in Article 2, point (6), of Directive 91/271/EEC not included in Part 1 of Schedule V*".

Conclusion

It can be concluded that the proposed development should be subject to EIA as it falls under Part 2 Class 13 (a) of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 – 2018, and an EIAR is therefore required.

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