

Regional Biosolids Storage Facility

Stage 3 Public Consultation



August 2017

What is happening?

Irish Water is currently seeking feedback on a preferred site at Newtown/Kilshane, Dublin 11 for a Regional Biosolids Storage Facility (RBSF) for greater Dublin including parts of Kildare, Meath and Wicklow.

The new biosolids storage facility will form a key part of the upgraded wastewater treatment network for greater Dublin and will facilitate its continued social and economic growth while protecting the environment.

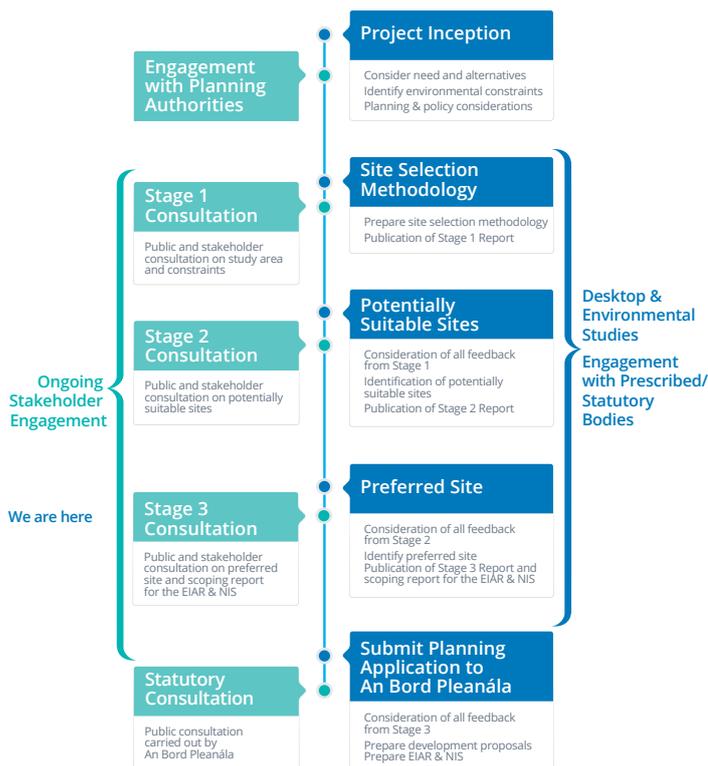
Biosolids are a treated by-product of the wastewater treatment process. The production of biosolids results in a low odour product that is not harmful to human health. They contain high levels of nutrients and are sustainably reused as an organic fertiliser

in agriculture, in compliance with EU and National regulations. Approximately 98% of biosolids produced in Ireland are reused on agricultural land. Biosolids are only applied to lands during the planting seasons each Spring and Autumn. For the rest of the year biosolids need to be stored. No further treatment of the material is required and no treatment will take place at the storage facility.

Irish Water published its National Wastewater Sludge Management Plan (NWSMP) in 2016. The plan identified the need to develop a New Regional Storage Facility to serve greater Dublin and to support the upgrade of Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP) and the development of the Greater Dublin Drainage project.

Irish Water commenced a site selection process in February 2017 that included three stages of public consultation to identify a preferred site for a Regional Biosolids Storage Facility. Following the second public consultation in May 2017, we are now publishing the *Stage 3 Report – Identification of Preferred Site* and the scoping report for the associated environmental assessments.

Regional Biosolids Storage Facility Project Development Roadmap



The Stage 3 Report identifies the preferred site at Newtown/Kilshane in Dublin 11 for the new Regional Biosolids Storage Facility. We are now looking for feedback on the site as well as your views on what should be considered in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS). This period of public consultation will run until 10 October 2017.

The project development roadmap below sets out the work carried out to date and the stages that the project team will undertake to bring the project through the planning process.

Site Selection Methodology

Following two previous consultations held earlier this year on the site selection methodology and the identification of potential sites, Irish Water has identified a preferred site for the new storage facility at Newtown/Kilshane in Dublin 11. The Stage 3 Report – Identification of Preferred Site has been published which documents the assessment of each of the potential sites.

Following the identification of shortlisted sites at Stage 2, a detailed assessment phase was carried out in accordance with the proposed criteria. Feedback received during the Stage 2 Public Consultation phase was considered as part of the site assessment process. The criteria used were considered under the following four categories:

- Environmental
- Economic & Engineering
- Planning
- Social & Community

A qualitative assessment of 21 criteria under the four categories above was undertaken by technical specialists to compare specific site characteristics. This comparative assessment allocated More Favourable, Less Favourable or Neutral classifications to each site for each criteria. The comparative assessment concluded that the site at Newtown/Kilshane Dublin was More Favourable for the majority of the criteria including zoning (heavy industry) and planning policy, landscape and visual, noise, ecology, hydrology, traffic and road safety, distance from biosolids source, population and sensitive receptors, and capital and operating costs.





RBSF Indicative Site Layout

Biosolids Storage Facility

The preferred site is approximately 11.4 hectares in size and is located in an area that is zoned for heavy industry. The site has previously been partially developed as a waste management facility to process construction and demolition waste and to treat sludge and biological waste. The site features existing roads, site services and fencing that will be incorporated into the design of the RBSF. The additional traffic from the proposed facility is expected to have minimal impact on the local roads and provides good access to the motorway network. The opportunity for vehicles to turn left, rather than cross traffic, when entering and exiting the site is positive from a road safety perspective.

An indicative layout of the site is presented here and the detailed design and layout of the facility will be confirmed following this consultation period. The site will be landscaped and will comprise two storage buildings, similar to modern industrial warehouses, and an administration building.

Biosolids will be fully treated at a wastewater treatment plant before being delivered to the storage facility in covered trucks. Biosolids are a safe and stable low odour material and the storage buildings will be fitted with odour control units. To mitigate noise and odour, all loading and unloading will take place internally within the enclosed buildings.

Why is this project needed?

The population of Dublin and the surrounding counties of Meath, Kildare and Wicklow are growing. So too is economic activity in this region. With that comes increased need for wastewater treatment facilities so that the treated water can be safely returned to our rivers, lakes and seas. Wastewater is now also being treated to a higher standard which results in larger volumes of biosolids.

In the coming years, the quantities of biosolids produced at the region's wastewater treatment facilities will exceed the existing available capacity. A new storage facility must therefore be developed. Increasing wastewater treatment capacity and associated facilities in greater Dublin is vital to meet the demands of a growing population and to support Dublin's future economic growth and development.

Next Steps: Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS)

The preferred site will now undergo further environmental studies and assessments as part of the preparation of a planning application for the project. To inform these assessments, a scoping report for the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has been published and Irish Water is now seeking feedback on the proposed assessment methodology.

Following the completion of the necessary environmental studies and assessments, planning permission for the Regional Biosolids Storage Facility will be sought as part of the applications for both the upgrade of the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant and the proposed new regional

wastewater treatment facility for north Dublin (the Greater Dublin Drainage project). Irish Water intends to lodge planning applications for these projects to An Bord Pleanála within the next 12 months. An Bord Pleanála will hold a full statutory consultation before making a final decision.

Public Consultation

We are currently seeking feedback on the preferred site identified and the scoping report for the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS). The Stage 3 Report – Identification of Preferred Site and the scoping report have been published and a six week consultation is being held from 29 August 2017 to 10 October 2017.

Irish Water is seeking feedback on the following:

- **Is there any additional information on the preferred site at Newtown/Kilshane that we should be aware of?**
- **What do you think of the indicative layout of the preferred site, as outlined in the Stage 3 Report?**
- **The proposed methodology for the assessment of environmental impacts is set out in the scoping report of the EIAR and NIS. Are there any other factors that you think should be considered in assessing the environmental impact of the project?**

- **How would you like Irish Water to communicate with you as the project progresses?**

The Stage 3 Report – Identification of Preferred Site and the scoping report for the EIAR and NIS can be viewed on the project website at www.water.ie/projects-plans/biosolids/. Hard copies are available for viewing at Irish Water's offices at Colvill House, Dublin 1 and at planning counters and county libraries in Fingal, South Dublin, Dublin City, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Kildare, Meath and Wicklow.

Open Day

To facilitate participation in the consultation, Irish Water is holding a public information event where the project team will be available to meet with the public and all interested stakeholders as follows:

- **Tuesday 12 September 2017, The White House Hotel, Newpark, Co. Dublin, from 1pm-8pm**

The information event will provide an opportunity to have your say on the project and to get further information about the Regional Biosolids Storage Facility.

Have Your Say

Submissions or observations on the project are invited by 5pm on Tuesday 10 October 2017:

By phone: 1890 44 55 67

By email: biosolids@water.ie

By post: Biosolids Consultation, Irish Water, Colvill House, 24-26 Talbot Street, Dublin 1, Ireland.