

ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCES AUTHORITY
Minutes of Board Meeting held on the 11 October 2024
Hexagon House, Marsa

6306. IP 0001/24. Application for the renewal of IP 0001/06/C for the operation of Ghallis non-hazardous landfill including variation IP 0001/06/C/V2 submitted by Wasteserv Malta Ltd.

Mr Simon Farrugia, as case officer presented this item. In attendance was Ms Nathalie Ellul.

Reference is made to the Case Officer's Report dated 20 September 2024.

The applicant, represented by Mr Richard Bilocca, gave a presentation indicating the scope of the application, namely to renew the current Integrated Pollution Prevention Control (IPPC) permit for the operation of a non-hazardous engineered landfill of Ghallis (IP 0001/06/C). Application also includes the request for a variation for the recontouring of the Ghallis landfill, to increase height and maximise void space (IP 001/06/C/V2), which would extend its lifetime by around 1 million m³. In fact, WasteServ is proposing to apply Frisoli retaining wall at the road level, and recontour the landfill's sides up to the plateau, to avoid the uptake of new land. Applicant provided a description of the permitted activities on site and a summary of the documentation submitted with the application. A summary of the mitigation measures in place, as well about the improvements carried out so far or are in progress was also provided. It was also indicated that in the future, vegetation/creepers will be used to minimise the visual impact.

ERA then gave its presentation to the Board, regarding the operation of the non-hazardous engineered landfill at Ghallis and the proposal by WasteServ. The facility has been permitted since September 2007. The Board was informed about the currently permitted operations, namely landfilling of non-hazardous waste, leachate and landfill gas management, which will be retained, as well as presented with a list of non-permitted waste categories/types.

Directorate informed that the current variation for recontouring, would result in an increase in height to maximise void space of circa 1 million m³ for disposal of waste. The variation also includes an existing backup flare and backup Regenerative Thermal Oxidiser (RTO) shared with neighbouring Ta' Zwejra landfill. Directorate also informed that in addition to the current applications (IP 0001/24 and IP 0001/06/C/V2), another application, IP 0001/06/C/V1 (Variation of IP 0001/06/C for the conversion of an un-used existing hazardous cell into non-hazardous cell, including extension of cell boundary) is also being processed.

The installation is within the scope of the Waste Management (Landfill) Regulations (S.L. 549.29) and the Industrial Emissions (Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control) Regulations (S.L. 549.77). The Waste Regulations (S.L. 549.63) and the Industrial Emissions (Framework) Regulations (S.L. 549.76) are also applicable.

It was noted that public consultations were held between 27 April – 11 May 2024 for IP 0001/24 and between the 20 May to 3 June 2024 for IP 0001/06/C/V2, were no feedback was received. Regulatory consultations were held between 26 April – 10 May 2024 for IP 0001/24 and between the 24 May to 3 June 2024. No objections were received during the Regulatory consultations. The conditions suggested by the consultees were discussed with applicant and included accordingly to be enforced by respective external proponent. Issues raised by internal consultees were also discussed with operator and have been addressed or in progress (such as better compaction rates, off-site cleaning procedures to

minimise litter escaping the site and leachate treatment, for which a tendering process is underway). Board was also informed about the status of Improvement Programme (IP) items from IP 0001/06/C, with a number of IP items being closed, ongoing or retained.

Directorate informed that feedback from applicant included the proposed rewording of certain conditions related to the Construction Quality Assurance (CQA), which was addressed by the Directorate, keeping the same requirements. Regarding the applicant's remark that the Fire Safety Report submitted for Žvejra is also applicable for the variation, Directorate recommended the retention of the applicable condition regarding Accident Prevention, to allow for flexibility. Directorate recommended the inclusion of EWC code 20 01 38 (wood) as permitted waste as requested by applicant, as long as it is in line with specific criteria.

The updated list of Improvement Programme items includes:

- IP items 22 and 23 for the proposal and implementation of a leachate treatment system;
- IP item 26 for the submission of a Closure Plan and provisions for after-care;
- IP item 34 for the updating of the Environmental Monitoring Programme (EMP);
- IP item 35 for the updating of Site Management System; and
- New IP items 36 and 37 for the proposal and commissioning of an upgraded gas collection and treatment system to cover all generated landfill gases.

Directorate informed that the proposed changes to the permit amongst other include adherence to levels as indicated in document IP00001/24/DOC1, submission of CQA Certificates, acceptance of EWC 20 01 38, carrying out of arial surveys, specifications for the construction method for new leachate boreholes, adherence to all relevant OHS legislations and monitoring of emissions points to air for point sources PS1 – PS5 as per EMP and in line with document IP00001/24/DOC3.

Directorate clarified that the previous bank guarantee has been revised and reduced, to reflect the closure or significant progress made on a number of Improvement Programme items.

The following supporting documents were proposed for approval:

- IP/0001/24/DOC1 – Various layout plans including pre- and post-settlement levels
- IP/0001/24/DOC2 – Landfill Thermography Methodology
- IP/0001/24/DOC3 – Layout plan with emission points to air
- IP/0001/24/DOC4 – Site plan showing quarantine area and split ponds.

The Directorate recommended the GRANTING of the permits IP 0001/24 and IP 0001/06/C/V2 for a period of ten (10) years subject to conditions and to a bank guarantee of €2,113,000 (covered by the Letter of Undertaking covering Government Projects ref MF35/05/160).

The Chairman then asked the applicant if there were any comments or questions following ERA's presentation. Mr Bilocca remarked that WasteServ is striving to minimise the negative impacts of the landfills and that the more recent landfills are managed and monitored.

The meeting was then opened to members of the Board.

In reply to a query by SFO, Mr Bilocca indicated that the monitoring/sampling is passive and not real time. However, there are other continuous monitoring procedures over and above the ones required through the permit, which are in place in view of health and safety issues.

In reply to a query by ES regarding wood waste, Mr Bilocca informed that two types of wood are received, namely pallets and furniture. Only pallets are sent to the facility at Hal Far for exportation and there are a number of parameters that need to be fulfilled. Furniture wood from Civic Amenity Sites and bulky waste collection is more unpredictable and needs to be sampled to ensure it is not toxic. Mr Bilocca added that the Skip Management Facility will facilitate the export of wood. Mr Bilocca further informed that should for some reason wood not be exported, there is a capacity which cannot be exceeded.

The applications were then put to the vote.

The Board was requested to vote based on the applicant's submissions and the Directorate's recommendation for the **GRANTING** of the renewal application of the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Permit for Għallis non-hazardous landfill (IP 0001/24), located in the limits of Naxxar, for a period of ten (10) years.

Members voting **in favour** of the granting of the permit as recommended:

Perit Vincent Cassar

Prof. Emmanuel Sinagra

Dr Stephanie Fabri

Mr Kurt Farrugia

Prof. Saviour Formosa

Mr Martin Galea De Giovanni

Ms Charmaine Mangion

Members who **objected** to the granting of the permit as recommended: NIL.

Based on the vote taken by the Board, the renewal has been **approved**.

The Board was requested to vote based on the applicant's submissions and the Directorate's recommendation for the **GRANTING** of the variation application of the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Permit for Għallis non-hazardous landfill (IP 0001/06/C/V2), located in the limits of Naxxar, for a period of ten (10) years.

Members voting **in favour** of the granting of the permit as recommended:

Perit Vincent Cassar

Prof. Emmanuel Sinagra

Dr Stephanie Fabri

Mr Kurt Farrugia

Prof. Saviour Formosa

Mr Martin Galea De Giovanni

Ms Charmaine Mangion

Members who **objected** to the granting of the variation as recommended: NIL.

Based on the vote taken by the Board, the renewal has been **approved**.

The meeting in public was terminated at this stage.

LORNA FARRUGIA
ERA BOARD SECRETARY