

NIEA/Moy Park Meeting Re: Broiler Expansion Plans, 29th June 2016

Present: David Mark, Keith Wilson (Moy Park)

Gavin McGill; (Clyde Shanks Consultancy),

Malachy Kearney (SES)

Charlotte Stewart, David Bruce, Alan Coughlin, Philip Mayes (NIEA-IPRI)

Keith Finnegan, Claire Goodwin; Hayley Sherwin; Gary Dodds (NIEA-NED) (Part)

1. Actions from last meeting (06/04/2016)

Action 1 A letter from J McElduff to be submitted withdrawing his application for a PPC permit – completed.

Action 2 Appropriate evidence to be submitted supporting reduced emission figures in regard to the use of biomass boilers - trial completed and report awaited.

Action 3 Ensure that both PPC applications and the appropriate fee are submitted together – remains an ongoing problem due to internal difficulties between departments within Moy Park.

Action 4 Submit applications for permit variations for all PPC sites which intend to install biomass and are not yet permitted - ongoing

Action 5 Query or Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry Ian McLean: Clarification on the 'change of use' i.e. turkeys to broilers: include as background e.g. J Anderson - Hayley Sherwin working on this, looking for historic planning permission.

2. Discussion – current planning applications: habitat impact issues

Gavin McGill provided an update:

The number of new planning applications being submitted by Moy Park has greatly reduced. There are 28-30 live Moy Park planning applications - only 5 or 6 of these applications have outstanding NIEA responses. The general response time to application has slowed down and is approx. 21 days. In most cases the required information is being provided with the application, including bio-diversity checklists.

Moy Park has now more or less completed the current expansion programme. Any further expansion is likely to be on existing sites.

Gillespie Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry – there seems to be an unusually long delay with this application. NED agreed to investigate the matter (**See Action 1**)

K. Finnegan provided an update:

NIEA-CDP's response time is close to target, however, there are continued staffing resource issues. Delays are also occurring due to incorrect emission figures or incorrect Critical Levels being used in modelling reports. The critical level to be used for all bogs should be 1 ug/m³.

The global tracker file of Moy Park broiler farm planning applications was forwarded to NIEA prior to the meeting. Clyde Shanks were largely content with the rate at which the process is moving along.

There is an issue with a broiler breeder planning application Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry Brian Thompson) regarding the quantity of litter which will be produced. Litter production has been measured at 15T/1000 birds/year as part of a current manure analysis project with AFBI but NIEA-WMU is using the figure from the NAP which is the equivalent of 52T/1000 birds/year - NIEA to follow-up. (See **Action 2**)

Other Queries:

- How do you know what are the sensitive habitats? Refer to APIS <http://www.apis.ac.uk/>
- Bio-diversity checklist status: NED-C&C still awaiting feedback.

3. Moy Park Expansion Plans - Update

(a) **Progress with expansion** – No further significant expansion planned at present. The total number of new broiler houses is expected to be around 330 (260 broiler and 70 breeder units). Approximately 250 broiler houses built or in process of being built; approx. 100 new houses to build this year and 40-50 new houses required in 2017. This equates to approx. 0.7-0.8 million extra birds per week. Less natural wastage occurring (ie. older farms ceasing operation) and Moy Park are concentrating more on expanding existing broiler farms.

(b) Moy Park Litter Utilisation Plans

Regular updates of the Moy Park Litter Utilisation Strategy are being provided to NIEA.

(i) Anaerobic Digestion

Connective Energy AD Plant, Donegal – AD Plant (3MW) is in the process of being built at Glenmore near Ballybofey and will have the capacity to take approximately 500T/week (25,000t per annum). Test litter to go to the plant in August as part of the commissioning process and it is anticipated that the plant will be fully operational in October 2016. Farms west of Dungannon will export litter to the Donegal AD plant, farms in the north to Tully Quarry AD Plant, whilst others will go to mushroom composters.

Stream Bioenergy (Tully Quarry, Ballymena) should have the capacity to take approx. 40,000t litter/year (700-750t/week) when operational. The site is currently being prepared with some litter planned to go there for testing at end 2016 and to be fully operational by around March 2017.

Other AD Plants in N. Ireland – some existing AD Plants are currently being used. Moy Park is aware that evidence is to be submitted to NIEA including details of the relevant waste management licences. PPC farms should have a consignment note for each load of litter sent to AD Plants. More AD Plants are enquiring about the supply of broiler litter for their processes.

(ii) Mushroom Compost

Tandragee Mushrooms (McHugh's) has gone out of business and had been taking up to 240t litter/week. The adjacent yard (CMC Compost) is still operational with a capacity for 30T/week. Monaghan Mushrooms and Walsh Mushrooms are expected to expand to fill the production requirements – up to 210t litter/week. Carberry Mushrooms are expected to be increasing in capacity as well. Northway Mushrooms (Ballygawley) is a new composter, however this outlet is not currently being used by Moy Park farms.

(iii) Combustion (Fife and Norfolk)

The tonnage going to Fife/Norfolk is approximately 300-400t/wk.

(iv) Land spreading in the ROI

M^cManus Contracts (Sean McManus) – no change since last meeting.

Strawchip (Gavin Owens) – 10,500t litter per year for land spreading in the ROI: information submitted to NIEA. NIEA has notified DAFM in writing of these proposals.

Other outlets – for example, Slane: Dermot Gleeson; Frank Joyce with potential for 15,000t per annum. Contract farming – this outlet may be used in the autumn.

(v) Other/Potential outlets

- Some other outlets are currently under investigation e.g. new combustion outlets.
- Going forward the priority for Moy Park will be increasing quantities to the AD Plants with a potential reduction in the Fife (combustion) and ROI land spreading outlets.

(vi) Litter Planning

Moy Park have employed a litter planner (Connor McGail) who is co-ordinating/tracking the day to day movement of litter from all farms. Moy Park is developing a system for the planning of litter movements and this is still work in progress.

(vii) Litter quantities & analysis

Moy Park is involved in an AFBI study to analyse different categories of poultry manures including broilers with hot water heating, breeders, turkeys, free range i.e. DAERA Evidence & Innovation and Agri-Food Quest Competence Centre Project. Preliminary results look good (e.g. lower P content and quantity) - final report expected around December 2016. Indications are that the use of biomass hot water heating is resulting in less feed being eaten by birds and lower quantities of litter being produced (190,000 down to 170,000 tpa, despite the expansion in bird numbers).

(c) Pre-screening of potential broiler farms

Pre-screening has more or less stopped – it was agreed that any future pre-screening could be done on a more informal basis.

(d) New technologies

Biomass Heating Systems – more than 900 poultry houses (approx. 80-90% broilers and up to 50% of breeder houses) have been installed with biomass hot water heating systems.

Moy Park said that they were seeing considerable practical benefits of biomass heating including drier litter, etc.

Trial work is now completed on a broiler farm in England with the Environment Agency (Tom Judd) and Natural England being involved (Girton poultry farm). AC visited Girton trial farm in May 2016. Final report is being prepared but has not yet been made available to NIEA – copy to be forwarded to NIEA when available for review/analysis (See [Action 3](#)).

Ammonia Scrubbers – the cost appears prohibitive; this option will not be used unless it is considered absolutely necessary.

Feed Formulation – The use of feed formulation to lower emissions (odour, ammonia etc) is being investigated.

NIEA requires robust documentary evidence to support emissions reductions claimed for any proposed new abatement systems on PPC farms.

(e) New PPC applications

2 new applications received for Moy Park farms since the last meeting. NIEA – IPRI has received 63 new PPC applications for Moy park installations since June 2014 with one of these being withdrawn (Andrew Gilbert). 2 new PPC applications plus some variations expected. There is still an issue with PPC applications and cheques arriving with NIEA separately – Moy Park to follow-up. (See [Action 4](#))

Moy Park is concentrating its expansion on existing sites as opposed to new ones, therefore there are likely to be more variations to permits than new applications in the future.

4. Legislation update

- BREF Document – final draft expected to be published shortly.
- BREXIT – business as usual for environmental regulation: re-evaluation of current legislation, etc. taking place.

5. Other Issues

- PPC compliance – Outstanding annual reporting and PRTR forms are still a problem: details to be given to Moy Park to follow-up (See [Action 5](#)).
- Dust emissions and Bio-aerosols – potential impacts of dust emissions including bio-aerosols were discussed. NIEA would have concerns about the potential effect of hot water heating systems on dust emissions from poultry houses i.e. increased dust emissions. Air Quality Impact Assessment reports should contain an assessment of dust impacts (PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}) if there are dwellings within 100m (including operator's own dwelling). The potential impact of bio-aerosols is still being explored (See [Action 6](#)).
- NIEA to produce guidance on the assessment of dust impacts from poultry houses (See [Action 7](#)).

6. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 16th November 2016 @2pm, NIEA Offices, Belfast.

Summary of actions

Action	Details	
1	NIEA-NED to investigate planning delay with Gillespie <small>Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry</small>	NIEA-NED
2	NIEA-IPRI to follow up on the issue of litter quantities for broiler breeders (NAP)	NIEA-IPRI
3	Final report on the Girton trial to be made available to NIEA	Moy Park
4	Moy Park to ensure that application for permits /variations and payment arrive together	Moy Park
5	Follow-up outstanding annual reporting and PRTR forms	Moy Park/NIEA-IPRI
6	Air Quality Assessment Reports to include an assessment of PM ₁₀ , PM _{2.5} where there are dwellings within 100m.	Moy Park
7	NIEA-IPRI to produce guidance on dust impact assessment.	NIEA-IPRI