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planning and environmental expertise

MANURE MANAGEMENT STATEMENT NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Easter Meathie

Applicant: Craginathro Eggs Ltd.

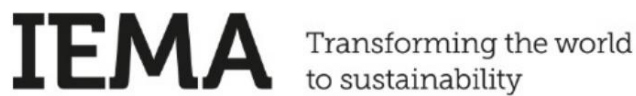
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Contents

1. Document Attachments	4
2. Non-technical Summary.....	5
2.1. Background.....	5
2.2. Easter Meathie Hen Litter	5
2.3. Method of Assessment	5
2.4. Findings of the Assessment.....	5
2.5. Management of Future Risk	6

1. DOCUMENT ATTACHMENTS

Table 1.1 Document Attachments

Document Title	Description

2. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

2.1. Background

This assessment has been carried out following a judgement passed for a poultry unit planning application in Shropshire. Although a different type of unit, the judgement concluded that because the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) didn't account for the storage and spreading of manure as a by-product of the proposed hen sheds in Shropshire, the planning permission granted by the Local Council wasn't valid. In order to avoid this happening with the proposed hen sheds sought at Easter Meathie, this assessment has been carried out to assess the potential impacts on the environment of storing and spreading hen litter on land within the Applicants ownership, and any third-party land. As the development sought is located within the land ownership boundary of Craignathro Farm, assessment will include all land associated with the farm.

2.2. Easter Meathie Hen Litter

As already stated in the EIA, the litter from the hen sheds at Easter Meathie will be dried, similar to the activities at the applicants existing egg farming operations. This reduces both the weight and odour of the manure and improves the quality of the by-product as fertiliser. As the development site is located within the ownership boundary of Craignathro Farm, the fertiliser will be used on land within this boundary, the rest will be sold to other landowners to be used as fertiliser. The purpose of this assessment is not to predict the future use, but to assess the potential pollution pathways and what can be done to minimise the risk of impact occurring to residences and waterways.

2.3. Method of Assessment

The spreading and storage of manure has no scientific methodology for assessing impacts in the same way emissions from the hen sheds themselves can be calculated using software. As a normal agricultural practice, this isn't regulated by planning authorities or environmental agencies and doesn't require special permissions or permits.

In order to assess the potential impacts, we have taken the following steps in line with current EIA Guidance:

- Identified the source of risk
- Identified potential receptors
- Assessed the potential impacts
- Assessed what mitigation can be applied to reduce the potential impact
- Assessed the risk if mitigation is applied

2.4. Findings of the Assessment

By using current best practice guidance for mitigation, the storage and spreading of manure can be of minimal risk to receptors if the current guidance and legislation is followed. This includes not storing manure within 400m of a third-party residence, 50m of a watercourse or borehole and 10m of a drain. For spreading of manure, a distance of 10m for residences and watercourses and 50m for wells and boreholes is sufficient to lower risk to acceptable levels, when combined with the recommendations for storage and spreading of manure.

2.5. Management of Future Risk

In order to control and manage risk, it has been proposed that Manure Management Plans are implemented to limit the risk of impact to receptors on third party land from the storage and spreading of manure from the Easter Meathie hen shed development. The Local Authority can take enforcement action to ensure that litter cannot be sold to anyone found not to be using the material in accordance with the guidance.