

Planning and Development Acts 2000 (as amended)

Notice of Direct Planning Application to An Bord Pleanála in respect of a Strategic

Infrastructure Development County Limerick

In accordance with section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), Aughinish Alumina Limited gives notice of its intention to make an application for permission to An Bord Pleanála for the following proposed development on this site of c.222ha located in the townlands of Aughinish East, Aughinish West, Island Mac Teige, Glenbane West, and Fawnamore at or adjacent to Aughinish Island, Askeaton, Co. Limerick.

The proposed development will consist of works to facilitate an expansion of the disposal capacity at the existing Bauxite Residue Disposal Area (BRDA). The works will generally consist of the construction of rock fill embankments at the perimeter of the BRDA, offset internally and founded on the previously deposited and farmed bauxite residue, in 2 m high vertical lifts. The proposed development will result in the footprint of the BRDA decreasing as it increases in height. The proposed development will result in a c.12m increase in height (over that previously permitted under Limerick County Council Ref. 05/1836; An Bord Pleanála Ref. PL13.217976) to a maximum height of c.44m OD upon closure. The proposed expansion of the BRDA will provide for the deposition of an additional c. 8.0 million m³ bauxite residue over the lifetime of the development. The proposed development also provides for an expansion of the existing capacity of the Salt Cake Disposal Cell (SCDC), which is located within the BRDA through a vertical extension of the exiting perimeter wall and associated cell lining resulting in a c.2.25m crest height increase of the existing cell to c.31.25m OD and a maximum overall height of c.35.50m OD upon closure. The increase in capacity of the SCDC will provide for the storage of an additional c. 22,500 m³ of salt cake.

Additional works include a c.3.9ha expansion of the permitted borrow pit (Limerick City and County Council Ref. 17/714; An Bord Pleanála Ref. ABP-301011-18) to the east of the BRDA resulting in a total borrow pit area of c.8.4ha with a maximum depth of c. 8.5 m O.D and providing for an additional 380,000m³ of rockfill with blasting and crushing of rock to occur between April and September each year.

Further works include upgrades to the water management infrastructure to accommodate the BRDA development; the continued use of a stockpile area for rock and top-soil storage to the south east of the BRDA; use of top-soil and rock materials for the landscaped restoration and closure of the BRDA (including SCDC); restoration of the extended borrow pit extraction area; lighting; spillway ramps (drainage channels); revised boundary treatments and ancillary associated works above and below ground. Aughinish Alumina Limited carries out an activity on the site requiring an Industrial Emissions Licence (Licence Reg. No. P0035-07).

This application for permission is accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Natura Impact Statement.

The planning application, including the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Natura Impact Statement prepared in respect of the proposed development, may be inspected free of charge or purchased on payment of a specified fee (which shall not exceed the reasonable cost of making a copy) during the public opening hours for a period of 7 weeks commencing 14th December 2021 at the following locations:

- The offices of An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1; and
- The offices of Limerick City and County Council, Dooradoyle Road, Dooradoyle, Limerick, V94 WV78

The planning application may also be viewed/downloaded at the following website once the application is lodged.

www.brdasid.ie

Submissions or observations may be made only to An Bord Pleanála (“the Board”), 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 during the above mentioned seven weeks relating to:

- I. The implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development;
- II. The likely effects on the environment of the Proposed Development; and
- III. the likely significant effects of the proposed development on the integrity of a European Site if carried out.

Any submissions or observations must be accompanied by a fee of €50 (except for certain prescribed bodies) and must be received by the Board not later than 5.30pm 10th February 2022. Such submissions/observations must also include the following information:

- The name of the person making the submission/observation, the name of the person acting on his/her behalf, if any, and the address to which any correspondence relating to the application should be sent;
- The subject matter of the submission or observation; and
- The reasons, considerations and arguments on which the submission or observation is based in full. (Article 217 of the Planning and Development Regulations refers).

Any submissions or observations which do not comply with the above requirements cannot be considered by the Board.

The Board may at its absolute discretion hold an oral hearing on the application. (For further details see: “A Guide to Public Participation in Strategic Infrastructure Development” on the Board’s website (www.pleanala.ie))

The Board may in respect of an application for permission decide to:

- a) (i) grant the permission, or (ii) make such modifications to the proposed development as it specifies in its decision and grant permission in respect of the Proposed Development as so modified, or (iii) grant permission in respect of part of the Proposed Development (with or without specified modifications of it of the foregoing kind); or
- b) refuse to grant the permission.

A decision to grant permission under paragraph (a)(i), (ii) or (iii) may be subject to or without condition.

Any enquiries relating to the application process should be directed to the Strategic Infrastructure Development Section of An Bord Pleanála (Tel. 01-8588100).

Any person may question the validity of any such decision of the Board by way of an application for judicial review, under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts (S.I. No. 15 of 1986, as amended by S.I. No. 691 of 2011), in accordance with Section 50 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended. Practical information on the review mechanism can be accessed under the heading ‘information on cases/weekly lists – Judicial Review of Planning Decisions’ on the Board’s website, www.pleanala.ie or on the Citizens Information Service website www.citizensinformation.ie.

Signed: 

Agent: **Gavin Lawlor** (Agent on behalf of the Applicant), Tom Phillips + Associates, Planning Consultants, 80 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2, D02 F449

Date of erection of site notice: 7th December 2021