

April 16th 2007



Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe *Galway City Council*

GALWAY CITY COUNCIL COMHAIRLE CATHRACH NA GAILLIMHE

GALWAY CITY COUNCIL STATEMENT IN REATION TO SUBMISSION FROM ENVA IRELAND LTD. ON OLD TERRYLAND WATERWORKS.

Throughout 2006, Galway City Council progressed a number of initiatives to address our ongoing concern with regard to the vulnerability of the old water treatment plant at Terryland to an outbreak of cryptosporidium. In order to determine whether a practical industry-based interim solution could be applied to the old water treatment plant, we approached a number of companies with recognised expertise (including Enva Ireland Ltd.) to assess the plant and to determine if an industry solution was feasible.

Responses were received from 3 companies at that time including Enva Ireland Ltd. Several other submissions have since been received from other companies. ***However, the Council is legally obliged to go through a public procurement process in progressing any individual solution.*** The responses indicated that an interim solution was feasible. Having established this, Galway City Council, in accordance with procurement guidelines, immediately commenced the procurement of an interim solution by preparing a brief for the appointment of a Consultant Engineer to advance the provision of a package treatment plant for the old water treatment plant.

In addition, the Council engaged independent expertise to undertake a detailed evaluation of the solutions proposed, to conduct an audit of the old treatment plant (which accounts for 30% of the city's supply) and to increase the efficiency of the new treatment plant (which accounts for 70% of the city's supply and which provides an effective barrier to cryptosporidium). As a result of these initiatives, the City Council developed a blueprint for an interim solution,

All of this work was progressed by the City Council in advance of the current outbreak of cryptosporidium. This was instrumental in enabling us to respond speedily to the advancement of an ***interim solution*** to a point where invitations to tender have now issued to 7 firms of Consultant Engineers to install a package treatment plant at the old treatment plant. This brief provides for the installation of a package treatment solution within 8 months of the appointment of Consultants. The Members of the City Council were briefed on our strategy to provide short,

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interim and long term solutions to this problem at meetings on the 2nd April, 2007 and 11th April, 2007.

Over and above this, Galway City Council has been working with Galway County Council to advance a ***short-term solution*** whereby 17,000 m³ of water per day will be available to the City from Galway County Councils water treatment plant at Luimnagh by mid June. This, together with the supply from the Councils new treatment plant at Terryland, will provide a safe, secure and potable water supply and will enable us to temporarily decommission the old Terryland plant – work can then progress on the installation of package treatment at this plant to upgrade the level of treatment provided.

In relation to the Councils water sampling programme and level of compliance, there is an extensive sampling programme in place, which is submitted annually to the EPA for independent assessment. Galway City Council samples in accordance with the Drinking Water Regulations and Quality of Surface Water intended for the abstraction of Drinking Water Regulations. The results indicate that the quality of water in the network fully complied with the parameters for clostridium. ***In addition since 1999, the monthly results for cryptosporidium indicate that at no time, prior to the current outbreak, did the results exceed the UK guideline value). The first exceedance was detected on the 19th March, 2007 ie 4 days after the issue of the 'boil water' notice on the 15th March, 2007.***

Galway City Council is continuing to work in full co-operation with the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, his Department, Galway County Council, HSE West and the EPA to ensure that this matter is resolved at the earliest possible date.

Finally, Galway City Council wishes to re-iterate that we regret the inconvenience caused to householders and local business in Galway. We thank them for their co-operation and patience and assure them that we are working to ensure that this problem is rectified as soon as is practicably feasible.

ENDS

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