

ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCES AUTHORITY

Minutes of Board Meeting held on the 09 January 2026
Hexagon House, Marsa

7012. IP 0001/06/C/V1 – Variation of IPPC permit IP 0001/24 for the conversion of an unused hazardous cell into a non-hazardous cell, including extension of cell boundary for landfilling

Related Case Officer's Report and supporting documents circulated prior to the meeting.

At this stage, the meeting was opened to the public.

Mr Morgan Bonnici on behalf of the applicant, assisted by Mr Hocine Abdelouhab, gave a presentation, addressing the introduction of Landfill 2 for non-hazardous waste, instead of a cell originally designed for hazardous waste. The cell has been applied with a vertical lining system. Reference was made to the documentation submitted, including risk assessments (stability, hydrological and environmental), EIA, monitoring programme, emergency plans and permits. Mitigation measures include an Emergency Response Plan, access controls, odour, noise and litter control and adverse weather policies. This project is expected to extend the landfilling capability by approximately 60 months.

The ERA then gave its presentation, where it was noted that this extension will result in minimal changes to the routine operations already authorised under the current permit, including landfilling, leachate and landfill gas management. Most existing conditions remain applicable, while some adjustments to reporting requirements and updates to approved documentation to reflect the new cell layout and levels.

Public and statutory consultations held between March 11 and 25, 2023 yielded no public comments, while feedback from regulatory bodies, including the Civil Protection Department, the Environmental Health Directorate and the Water Services Corporation has been incorporated into the permit conditions. Other comments received were addressed by the applicant.

Directorate noted that the landfill gas generation will continue to be managed through the existing collection and treatment systems, with possible future upgrades retained under the current Improvement Programme. Ongoing monitoring of emissions to air, water, land, noise and odour will continue to be regulated through the Environmental Monitoring Plan, with updated timeframes aligned to recent discussions. Additional requirements include the characterisation of runoff directed to the Żwejra reservoir and a revision of the bank guarantee to reflect the increased operational risk associated with the new landfill cell. With regard to the Improvement Programme Items, existing requirements are being retained and updated, including revisions to associated timeframes, to reflect the latest expectations for each item, based on recent discussions with the operator to address pending updates to the Environmental Monitoring Programme (EMP). Previous Improvement Programme item related to the treatment of leachate has been replaced with a requirement for a detailed leachate treatment proposal as a Post-decision requirement.

The Directorate recommended the **GRANTING** of the Permit for the duration of the validity of the existing permit IP 0001/24, that is until 15th October 2034, subject to conditions and to the following post-decision requirement:

- A proposal for leachate treatment which:
 - i. Meets the criteria of Schedule 3 of S.L. 549.77;
 - ii. excludes recirculation;
 - iii. demonstrates how the proposed treatment capacity is able to meet the requirements of the total leachate generated from the permitted landfills at the Ecohive complex;
 - iv. describes, including with energy and mass flow diagrams, the techniques to be implemented;
 - v. details of the expected concentration of pollutants of treated effluent;
 - vi. details of the expected types and quantities of wastes, emissions and noise to be generated with associated abatement measures;
 - vii. details of containment measures, including volumes of any pre- or post treatment storage tanks; and
 - viii. details the final destination of treated effluent and wastes to be generated.

The Chairman then asked the applicant if there were any comments or questions following ERA's presentation to which the applicant replied in the negative.

The Chairman then opened the floor to the Board members.

SFO enquired whether any sensors were installed to detect potential leakage from the HDPE system. Mr Bonnici responded that no sensors are in place, however, tests were carried out during construction to ensure the system is impermeable.

The Chairman put the application to the vote, noting that the application is for the variation of IP0001/06/C/V1, for the operation of a non-hazardous landfill.

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

Perit Vincent Cassar, Chairman
Prof. Emmanuel Sinagra, Deputy Chairman
Dr Christopher Ciantar
Prof. Stephanie Fabri
Mr Kurt Farrugia
Prof. Saviour Formosa
Mr Isaak Koroma

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

Based on the vote taken by the Board, the application was **approved**.

The meeting in public was terminated at this stage.

LORNA FARRUGIA
ERA BOARD SECRETARY