

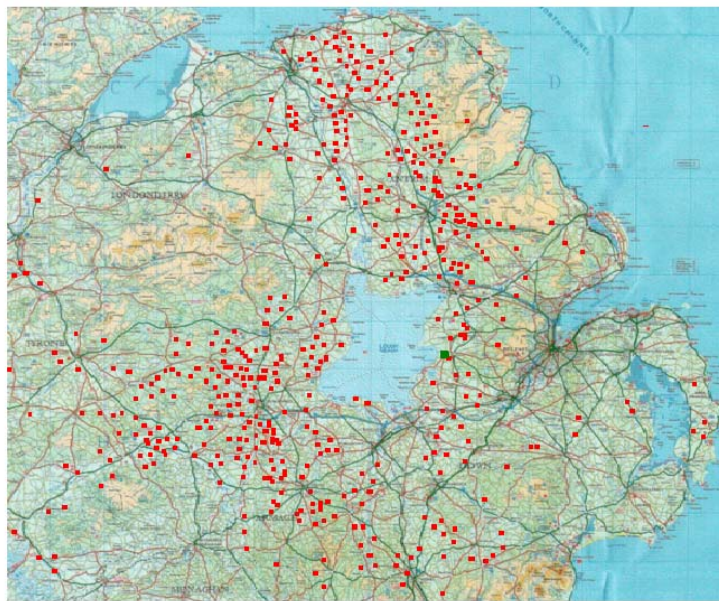
Notes on Biosecurity for Rose Energy Project

Introduction

1. Biosecurity is the process by which the introduction of disease causing agents to a site (usually a farm) is prevented or minimized. Such measures can include structural features of the site, management practices and the use of chemical disinfectants.
2. On first glance the Rose Energy project could be viewed as having considerable risks as it involves vehicles moving from farm to farm and transporting potentially disease carrying animal manures. However two key points must be remembered:
 - Firstly the sites from which Rose Energy will collect litter will have been depopulated of stock. Therefore there is no immediate host for any pathogen brought to the site to infect. It also is the case that all the sites involved will subsequently be subject to rigorous cleansing and disinfection – the process of used litter removal is by its nature the first step in this process. Therefore even if an infective agent was introduced to a site it is very likely to be destroyed before any animals are brought back onto the farm.
 - Secondly the process of removing the litter and burning it in a power station will destroy any pathogens it contains. This is not the case with the current process of land spread. On a national scale any potential for dissemination of pathogens into the environment will be greatly reduced as a result of the project.

Key Points

3. There will be several key measures which will be taken in the design and operation of the Rose Energy plant to ensure best practice with respect to Biosecurity:
 1. Location of the plant - this has been chosen to be away from the high density areas of poultry production in Northern Ireland. Logistical constraints limit the extent to which this can take place, however the attached map illustrates that the location chosen is between the two main areas of dense production.



Key
 ■ poultry producers
 ■ Rose Energy site

PLAN: Source Locations
 for Poultry bedding
 SCALE: NTS

the
GRAHAM BOLTON PLANNING
 Partnership limited

2. The location takes into account two key pieces of European legislation namely the Avian Influenza (AI) control Directive (EC 2005/94/EC) and the Newcastle Disease (ND) control directive ((4/984/EC). These require a 3km control zone to be imposed round any outbreak of AI or ND where movements would be greatly restricted. Critically there are no poultry farms supplying the operation in the 3km zone round the site of the proposed plant and thus it is likely that operation would be able to continue to operate in the event of an outbreak of AI or ND elsewhere in Northern Ireland.
3. Elimination of land spread of litter. The current process of disposal of litter by land spread risks the dissemination of animal pathogens such as infectious bursal disease or infectious bronchitis. In addition at times this process creates odour nuisance. By eliminating land spread there will be a much reduced ability of any potential pathogen to be spread through the environment and on a national scale this will greatly lower the disease challenge faced by livestock farmers.
4. The timing of collection of litter – this will only take place after total site depopulation however it will occur as quickly as possible after this to make sure litter is stored outside for the minimum time possible. This will ensure there is minimum chance of dissemination of dust, etc.
5. Automatic cleansing and disinfection equipment will operate at the Rose Energy site so that all collection lorries will be externally washed and disinfected after each load is discharged. In addition all lorries will receive a deep clean both externally and internally as required.



Automated vehicle washing facility in operation at similar plant.

6. Standard Operating Procedures for the staff involved with collecting litter will be put in place. These will encompass ;
 - a. Use of correct protective clothing and footwear for each site.
 - b. Cleansing and disinfection procedures for vehicles moving on and off sites
 - c. No entry of staff and equipment to poultry houses.
 - d. Out and back collection runs i.e. lorries will never move from farm to farm but will travel directly from farm to plant. This will mean an occasional need to run part filled vehicles, but will ensure no movement occurs between farms without disinfection.
7. Any farm with a known disease problem will be flagged. These sites will be collected from last in any working period to permit extra time for cleansing and disinfection of lorries equipment and staff before visiting any other farms.
8. It is likely that there will be separation of collection crews and equipment servicing each supply company and indeed within each category of stock involved, (i.e. breeding farms are likely to be collected separately from fattening facilities).
9. In the event of notifiable disease occurring on any poultry production site, control of movements onto and off sites within 10km of the affected farm will pass to the Department of Agriculture's veterinary service who may impose additional controls.

Summary

4. Subject to the above principles the operation of the Rose Energy facility will create an enhanced Biosecurity environment for the poultry sector in Northern Ireland and eliminate potential contamination and nuisance smells currently caused by land spread disposal.