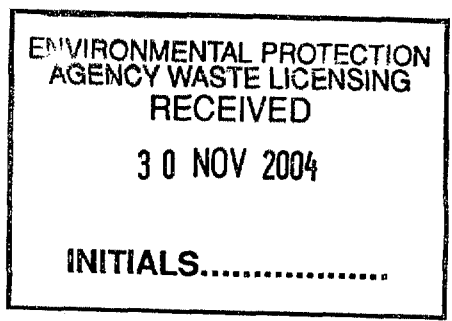


Objection to expansion of landfill at Gortnadroma, Co. Limerick

Breen Higgins,
E.P.A.
Johnstown Castle,
Wexford.



Reference No: 17.2

24-11-04

Dear Sir/Madam

We live just 130m from the Gortnadroma landfill. Our objection is based on our experience of the present landfill, which is now 14 years in operation.

At the start of the landfill back in 1989 there was very bad infrastructure and only a dirt road to the tip head. A lot of lorries came on the road drawing rubbish to the landfill with no regard what so ever for other road users. It was frightening, the way they intimidated the local community with the speed at which they travelled, and taking up more than half the road so we would have to stop and let them pass. Our next-door neighbour was terrified when having to travel to school to collect her children. That is what we had to put up with in the early stages of the landfill being opened.

Some of the dump trucks did not have covers on their trailers and papers and rubbish were constantly falling off onto the road. It was a disgrace. There was no supervision at the tip head to check that the trucks were completely empty before leaving. This was when the council were dumping without a licence. Dumping into unlined cells, which we may add is causing a big problem today with leakage from same. It is suspected that the leakage from these unlined cells very recently caused a massive trout kill in the white river. It is also a fact that fourteen of the sixteen fresh water wells surrounding the landfill have been contaminated and are now unfit for human consumption.

When the council started to dig out new cells, this caused a lot more headaches for the local community because of the noise and the dust and the extra traffic on our roadway. There were 60 trucks daily on our road at the fall of the year when every place was wet. These trucks were drawing rocks to the new cells and all the lorries drivers were interested in, was getting as many loads as they could in the day regardless of consequences.

There was no wheel wash at the exit from the tip head at this stage of the programme and our road was filthy from the mud being brought onto the road by the wheels of the lorries. Our fences were black with dirt. Our walls and piers were also filthy from being constantly splashed with the mud from the passing lorries and no apology from anyone.

When the council were getting their act together a little bit, they put wheel washers in place but supervision of the use of these washers was lacks, so lorry drivers by passed the washers and we had to go to the office at the tip head to complain about the lorries not using the wash. On many occasions the excuse was, the wash was down due to cleaning or the wash was down due to a bust pipe, while all the time, all that was wrong was the lorry drivers did not want to lose time going onto the wash. There was a simple remedy to that as we explained to the manager of the dump- he should tell the lorry drivers to use the wash or stay out of the dump.

We also had to endure the noise from the machinery during the excavation of the cells. The constant beep, beep, beep from the reversing gear of the dumpers all day from 8am to 8pm and the noise from the heavy earth moving machinery was just unbearable. The work time should have been from 8am to 5pm with no work on Saturday and then maybe we would have had some break but this was not adhered to and no consideration given to the locals at all.

At the present time there is a continuous odour of gas in our homes and also a bad odour of rubbish when the tip is disturbed. Papers are still littering our roads and hedges. As late as 14-8-04 two bags of rubbish fell from a truck at our gateway. We have found discarded items from hospitals such as needles and dressings on the roadside.

This is what we have been putting up with for 14 years and we don't want to have to endure this for much longer. All of this is why we are objecting to any expansion to gortnadroma landfill.

Yours faithfully,

Michael Costello Snr,
Cahernagh,
Ballyhahill,
Co. Limerick.

Michael Costello Jnr,
Cahernagh,
Ballyhahill,
Co. Limerick.

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