

Karen Vaughey

From: Stuart Huskisson
Sent: 01 February 2005 16:49
To: Karen Vaughey; Noeleen Keavey
Subject: Submission Reg. No.209-1 FW: Pollution on the Little Brosna river.



Pollution of the
Little Brosna...

Hello Karen/Noeleen,

Attached is an e-mail which I think could be dealt with as a submission for Reg. No.209-1 - Shannon Vermicomposting Ltd.

Let me know if any additional follow up is required.

Regards,
Stuart

-----Original Message-----

From: James Heenan [mailto:heenanjames@yahoo.ie]
Sent: 31 January 2005 16:53
To: info@epa.ie
Subject: Pollution on the Little Brosna river.

Lorrha/Rathcabin Angling Club,
c/o James Heenan,
Lorrha,
Nenagh,
Co. Tipperary.
Tel: 087 2031798

E-mail: heenanjames@yahoo.ie Dear Sir/Madam,

I concerned over a firm 'Shannon Vermicomposting' which seems to be discharging effluent into the Little Brosna system. I have included the details in the attachment.

Regards,
James Heenan.
(Hon. Secretary, Lorrha/Rathcabin Angling Club).

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Pollution of the Little Brosna.txt

JAMES HEENAN,
LORRHA,
NENAGH,
CO. TIPPERARY.
TEL: 087 2031798
E-MAIL: heenanjames@yahoo.ie

Dear Sir/Madam

I as a keen fisherman am worried about the future of fishing on my local river 'The Little Brosna'. A few friends and I have recently formed 'The Lorrha and Rathcabin Angling Club'. Our main concerns are fish conservation and water pollution. Without adequate fish or habitat there is simply no fishing. Our area in North Tipperary is nestled between the shores of Lough Derg to the south-west, the river Shannon to the west and the Little Brosna to the north.

The Little Brosna is of grave concern to us. This river which is noted for its pike, salmon, brown trout and the unique croneen (a migratory trout from Lough Derg) maybe in its initial stage of pollution. This area is an important wetland area with up to 5,000 ducks in winter along with geese and the globally threatened corncrake. There is also rare plant species here such as orchids and marsh peas.

Threatening this habitat is effluent discharged from a local company 'Shannon Vermicomposting'. This discharge is fed into a local stream via a drain from these premises. This stream feeds into the Little Brosna river (which in turn feeds into the river Shannon). On the 30th January 2005, I decided to visit this site. On arrival the first thing I noticed was the smell from the complex. Adjacent to the complex running along side the road was a drain with grey black murky water. Some stages of this drain was filled with broken stone. I followed this drain towards the main gate where I noticed a pipe coming from the premises under the road to a stream the far side of this road. The water here was gathered in a deep pool which was black in colour. This then treacled into a stream. This stream flows down along the border of a large field till it meets a larger stream. Banks and beds of both streams were an unusual clay orange or rusty red in colour. This colouration was visible the whole way down along the course of the streams till they met the Little Brosna and its floodwaters. Orange marks were left on vegetation due to higher water levels previously. Any slack water on streams were a dull grey colour with a thin slick on its surface.

At present there is an ongoing dispute between the local community, the firm and the council which has resulted in court procedures. This firm had originally started out with 10 mushroom tunnels but now has since expanded vastly (and not in accordance with council legislation) and is now seeking retention and further permission for expansion to this site from Bord Pleanala.

Pollution of the Little Brosna.txt

Hopefully permission will be refused but this may well be a case of 'shutting the stable door when the horse is gone'. This habitat like any other is a fragile ecosystem and any imbalance will cause a chain reaction of destruction for it's many tpes of organisms. At present locals are puting pressure on relevent authorities and I for my part am making the public aware of this situation in which may help stop this pollution before it's too late.

Your's faithfully,

James Heenan.
(Hon. Secretary, Lorrha/Rathcbin Angling Club).

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