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Dr. Patrick J. Hillery  
Prof. Declan Kennedy,  
Prof. Risteard Mulcahy

Irish  
Doctors  
Environmental  
Association

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12/3/12

Dear Dr. Maclean

The Irish Doctors' Environmental Association has serious concerns regarding possible adverse health effects from incineration, in particular the proposed incinerators for Duleek and Ringsakiddy. Specifically, we have concerns regarding:

- a) The possible health effects of dioxin-like compounds which have bromine substituted for one or more chlorine ions. We understand that current regulations regarding incinerators do not refer to these compounds. Our research indicates that adverse health effects ascribed to these compounds are similar to polychlorinated bi-phenyls.
- b) We are also concerned about particulate matter, smaller in size than PM 10, which have recently been associated with cardiovascular and respiratory illness. Our research leads us to believe that at maximum, only 30% of these particles are collected with current mechanisms.
- c) Finally, we would be also concerned that the required frequency for testing for dioxin emissions from incinerators may not be adequate. We understand that more accurate estimations of dioxin emissions may be achieved with more prolonged testing (two weeks) than the more usual six to eighteen hour time interval.

I would be happy to discuss any of these issues in more detail.

Thank you very much for your help.

Best wishes

Yours sincerely

Elizabeth Cullen M.B., B. Ch, M. Sc. Diploma in Pollution Control (Open)  
Co-chair

Irish Doctors' Environmental Association

If replying in writing, please write to Thomastown, Kilcullen, Co. Kildare. Work telephone number 01-8723116 home 045-485215