

**Dr Mary Kelly, Director General  
EPA Headquarters  
PO Box 3000  
Johnstown Castle Estate  
Co. Wexford**

10/01/2005

Dear Dr Kelly,

I am writing to you concerning your decision to hold oral hearings into the planned incinerators at Carronstown, Duleek County Meath and in County Cork.

The key concern I have is regarding the Health Effects of Incineration. I refer to the report of the Health Research Board "Effects on Public Health and the Environment of Landfill and Thermal Treatment of Waste" which found that Irish health information systems cannot support routine monitoring of the health of people living near waste sites and points to a lack of baseline human health data at national regional and county level. In the absence of such systems I believe that the decision to grant this license is certainly premature.

I believe that it is now absolutely essential to hold your oral hearing into all health aspects of this application in the presence of the most eminently qualified International experts on the Health and Environmental Effects of Incineration.

I understand that The Environmental Protection Agency has no qualified Health Professional on its staff and did not commission an independent professional report from suitable qualified Health Specialists in relation to this specific proposal notwithstanding the great public concern locally about this matter.

I note from the report of Mr Patrick Nolan Programme Manager EPA that he changed in two material respects the recommendation of the EPA Inspector Mr Peter Carey.

Mr Carey notes on page 12 of his report The Food Safety Authority of Ireland paper on Waste Incineration and possible contamination of the food supply with dioxins which states "that it is vital however that rigorous monitoring programmes be maintained and that consideration be given to expanding environmental monitoring around any incineration facilities."

Mr. Carey then recommends that the following condition be included in the licence  
*8.19 Prior to commencement of waste activities, the licensee shall consult with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland regarding monitoring of the food chain and submit to the Agency for its agreement, recommended monitoring of the food chain to take*

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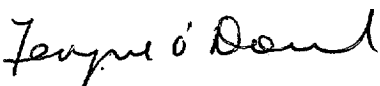
*place prior to commencement of waste activities or/and during operation of the facility*

This recommendation was overruled by the Programme Manager.

The Inspector's recommended monitoring frequency of Bottom Ash, and Boiler Ash of some waste residues at the plant was changed from a weekly frequency to Quarterly and the monitoring of the Flue Gas and Gypsum was changed from weekly monitoring to Biannually monitoring.

I am very concerned also about the fact that County Louth and Drogheda in particular (which is very close to Carronstown) presently has the highest rate of Cancer in the Country. Accordingly I believe that it is in the public interest that the EPA exercise their option to have present at this hearing expert witnesses and advisors from the World Health Organisation and also to have present experts from the Food Safety Authority of Ireland.

Yours Sincerely

  
Fergus O'Dowd TD

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