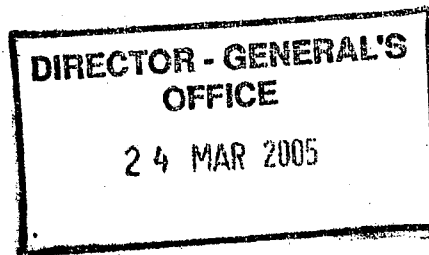


Monkstown,
Co. Cork.

186-1
Public

Dr. Mary Kelly,
Director,
E.P.A. Headquarters,
PO Box 3000,
Johnstown Castle Estate,
Co. Wexford.



23rd March, 2005.

Dear Dr. Kelly,

I would appreciate a reply to my letter of 8th February, 2005 to your Press Officer, Ms. Niamh Leahy (copy enclosed for your information).

I trust the E.P.A. are in a position to let me have a simple answer, yes or no, to my request (see previous requests which Ms. Leahy should have on file).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Norcott Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Norcott Roberts.

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186-1
office.

Sydenham Cottage,
Monkstown,
Co. Cork.

Ms. Niamh Leahy,
Press Officer,
E.P.A. Headquarters,
PO Box 3000,
Johnstown Castle Estate,
Co. Wexford.

8th February, 2005.

Dear Ms. Leahy,

May I present the following question to you, for an answer from the E.P.A.

Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992.
(Extract from Act)

- (1) In this Act "environmental protection" includes -
- (a) the prevention, limitation, elimination, abatement or reduction of environmental pollution and
 - (b) the preservation of the quality of the environment.
- (2) In this Act "environmental pollution" means -
- (a) "Air pollution" for the purpose of the Air Pollution Act, 1987.
 - (b) The condition of waters after entry of polluting matter within the meaning of the Local Government (water pollution) Act, 1977.
 - (c) The disposal of waste in a manner which would endanger human health or harm the environment and, in particular -
 - (i) Create a risk to waters, the atmosphere, land, soil, plant or animals.
 - (ii) Cause a nuisance through noise or odours, or
 - (iii) Adversely affect the countryside or places of special interest
- Or
- (d) Noise which is a nuisance, or would endanger human health or damage property or harm the environment.

When the Environmental Protection Agency (E.P.A.) grant a licence to an industry, or company, which would create pollution, do the E.P.A. adhere strictly to the above

extract from the 1992 Act, which is the very Act on which the E.P.A. was founded as an independent body for the protection of the citizens of the State?

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Norcott Roberts", written over a horizontal line.

Norcott Roberts.

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EPA challenged

19/1/05

□ THE Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) press officer has not responded to my letter (Irish Examiner, December 11) in which I suggested she should clarify where they stood regarding human health under section 4 (2) (C) of the EPA Act 1992.

It reads: "Environmental pollution means — the disposal of waste in a manner which would endanger human health or harm the environment and in particular (1) create a risk to waters, the atmosphere, land, soil, plants and animals."

Do I sense a reluctance by the Environmental Protection Agency to accept responsibility for this part of the very act on which the agency is founded.

Norcott Roberts
Sydenham Cottage
Monkstown
Cork

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Just in case you missed above on
IRISH EXAMINER!

8/2/05



Q8. Health not protected by EPA licensing

A8. The Environmental Protection Agency grants licences for waste facilities in accordance with legislation as laid down in the Waste Management Acts 1996 to 2003.

Section 40(4) of that legislation states that 'The Agency shall not grant a waste licence unless it is satisfied thatthe activity concerned, carried on in accordance with such conditions as may be attached to the licence, will not cause environmental pollution. Environmental pollution is defined in Section 5(1) as follows;

'environmental pollution means, in relation to waste, the holding, transport, recovery or disposal of waste in a manner which would, to a significant extent, endanger human health or harm the environment.....'

Consequently where the Agency grants a licence for a waste facility it is satisfied that the facility will not endanger human health. Conditions attached to a licence sets limits on the pollutant load from the facility for all pollutants of significance. For each pollutant the Agency calculates the effect of the emission of that compound on the receiving environment around the facility for different scenarios. Account is taken of the existing concentration of that pollutant in the surrounding environment. The predicted concentration of the pollutant in the worst-case scenario is compared to

- Standards laid down in National and European legislation,
- World Health Organisation recommendations,
- United Nations recommendations and
- Standards for workplace exposure,

The European Union has set standards for most air pollutants of importance through the Air Framework Directive [96/62/EC] and subsequent Daughter Directives. This Framework Directive takes the World Health Organisation's Air Quality Guidelines for Europe as a starting point. Article 1 of the Air Framework Directive states (inter alia)

Objectives

The general aim of this Directive is to define the basic principles of a common strategy to:
- define and establish objectives for ambient air quality in the Community designed to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole.....

Consequently, when EU standards for ambient air are respected, human health is not endangered.

Note: For pollutants where the EU does not have a specific standard the background level is checked and worst case for emissions estimated and compared to the WHO recommended limits.

83(5)