

Environmental
Protection Agency
20 JUN 2005

Emer Davis
Berryleck Lane
Wilkinstown
Co Meath

046-9054222

Date 15 June 2005

Office of Licence & Guidance (Waste)
P.O. Box 3000
Johnstown Castle Estate
Co Wexford

Licence reference number 219-1..Organic Gold (Marketing) Ltd

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to make this submission in relation to the above licence reference and inform you of my major concerns and fears about this company and their facility.

Firstly, Organic Gold are operating at the moment in a yard that has been completely constructed without planning permission, which in turn is in non-compliance with their current permit **WMP 2002/26**. Point 1.1 of the scope of the permit states *No waste activities shall commence on site unless and until the land owner has applied for and obtained a valid **planning permission** for use of the site for the proposed activities, if required.*

This has been an ongoing problem since January 2004, when I informed the council of the construction. I do not know if the EPA have seen the planning files and the enforcement files relating to Organic Gold, but since January 2004 I and many other local residents have been writing and calling Meath County Council. It makes some interesting long reading!

Since then I, and the local residents, have suffered due to the terrible smells coming from the yard. I informed the EPA last year of this problem, but Meath Co Co assured all that they would resolve the situation. Many letters (enforcement letters, warning letters, etc) have been sent to Organic Gold, by MCC, but they do not seem to want or to be able to do anything further.

To date nothing has been done to cease operations at the yard. Our local committee had a meeting with Meath Co Co 03-03-2005, and at this meeting we were told that the "yard" would be closed down again. (closed by MCC late last Autumn but allowed to reopen in December, even though conditions on permit broken). The current position would seem that it has "gone legal", but how much longer will this company be allowed to do what they want?

If the EPA grant this licence, then I will fear for my health and my home. To enter and leave my home, I have to pass the boundary wall of this yard. Their mist system (used to disguise the smell?????) sprays directly onto me, drenching me. There have

been countless days since spring 2004, when I have been unable to open my doors or windows, and have also been forced to return from a walk around my fields and garden, due to the sickening smells. This is still an ongoing problem and if the facility is to continue, with a new licence, I know that I will be unable to have any quality of life, either in my home and definitely outside of it. Again, I cannot stress enough my fears about this facility. Their EIS also stated that there would not be a problem with smells. How can I believe them, when I cannot trust them?

One of my fears is that I have absolutely no trust in MCC's ability to be able to enforce conditions on a new permit, seeing as they appear not to be able to do anything now. MCC also used this facility last summer to dump sludge and other materials, again knowing non-compliance with existing permit. Surely this is a conflict of interests?

My other fear is for me and my home, due to the fact that I live beside this facility. Organic Gold have absolutely no regard or respect for existing terms and conditions on their current permit, and this permit covers a fraction of what they want to do. 25000 tonnes. What will happen if they get their new licence? The EIS states that there will be no problem with vermin or birds, but on their promotional video the only thing audible in the background was birds. Last summer, 2004, there were hundreds of crows and seagulls carrying waste from the yard, and dropping it everywhere. The volume of rats in the area seemed to increase, and the number of flies was disgusting. I could/can see the rotting gasses coming from the yard, and this is only from a small amount of waste. What happens if they get their new licence? If Organic Gold cannot maintain the conditions of, or adhere to their existing permit, how can they do so with a new one?

Surely quality of life, and clean fresh air is more important than this company just bulldozing their way through the system to obtain what they want. Some of their current suppliers, e.g. Midland Waste and Panda Waste, were instructed by MCC to cease deliveries to this facility. Yet, last week they continued to do so. No-one, it seems, has any regard for authority or regulations. MCC were informed of this, and further letters were sent!

This facility is right in the heart of the village, and unfortunately is affecting everyone. Last summer, for the first time ever, I had to use an inhaler due to a chronic respiratory infection. I blame the gasses and fumes from this yard.

I have attached copies of my two planning objections that I sent to MCC on 21-06-2004, and again on 06-04-2005. Perhaps these will also explain to you my worries. Also attached is a map showing the position of my home from the yard.

I hope this information makes it quite clear how I feel about Organic Gold, both their current operations and possible future ones. Please take this on board before any decisions are made, and should you require any further information or details, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully



Emer Davis

only access to the end desacto
left to my home.

0m 100m 200m 300m 400m 500m



For information purposes only other use.

The yard

My home

Emer Davis
Berryleck Lane
Wilkinstown
Navan
Co Meath

046-9054222

Date: 06 April 2005

**RE: PLANNING APPLICATION 50074
ORGANIC GOLD MARKETING LTD
WILKINSTOWN, CO MEATH**

Dear Sir/Madam

I would like to **OBJECT** to the above planning application and below I have outlined my reasons why. I have also attached a copy of my initial objection to their planning application ref 40198, which I submitted in June 2004.

1. Organic Gold intend on increasing the volume of waste from 10000 tonnes to 25000 tonnes, as was outlined in their application and in the EIS that was with it. Since early 2004 my quality of life has been severely damaged due to the terrible smells coming from this facility. Organic Gold DO NOT seem to be capable of adhering to the conditions of their permit NOR to the instructions issued by Meath Co Co. So many problems have arisen in the last 14 months when this facility has only been operating to a fraction capacity to what they want. HOW can I, or Meath Co Co expect them to adhere to further conditions or regulations when operating at full capacity. I do not and could not possibly trust this company to follow new guidelines, when in fact they cannot even follow existing ones. The company have absolutely no regard for the local residents or the local authority.
2. In the EIS many references are made to the mist-air system that was installed last year. What they state is that the system is "less sensitive" due to it being in a rural area. They also state that "the impact on users of the public laneway are slight and not significant due to screening provided by existing hedgerows". I would like to point out, again, that this mist system is on the border wall of the yard, which is directly on the side of the cul de sac, on which I live. Last year, when the mist system was in use, it sprayed directly onto the cul de sac and drenched me. Surely this is a significant impact on a public road way, and therefore should not be permitted. The mist-air system would appear to be a major part of their plans to disguise the odours. How can this be part of their plans when it is causing such problems on the public laneway. The smell of these "natural oils" are extremely sickening when inhaled at such close range. Also the hedgerows and trees that they mention that were planted last year, are far from screening the yard. No care or

attention has been given to these plants, and it would indeed be a miracle if they do screen this facility at any stage, either now or way into the future.

3. At no stage in the EIS do they state that there will be absolutely no odours. They state that there will be "minor to moderate" smells. This is absolutely unacceptable. Prior to the commencement of this facility in January 2004, there was never a major problem with odours from this area. Why now should I be expected to accept minor to moderate smells, when in fact the smells were so bad last year, and some of this year, that I was unable to open the doors or windows of my home. I would deem this a MAJOR smell and is still a major problem for me and my home. This was a lovely peaceful rural area prior to the commencement of this facility, and it would be shameful if one company were allowed to destroy it.
4. There were terrible problems with vast amounts of birds, both crows and seagulls, which carried the waste from the yard to the surrounding areas. Waste ended up in my garden and the public cul de sac was covered in bird dirt. The EIS attached to the planning application stated that there would be no problems with birds or vermin. However in the promotional CD with the EIS showing a similar facility, all one could hear in the background was birds. So how can they state NO BIRDS when in fact they themselves produced audible proof!
5. They state in the application that they want to erect palisade fencing on top of the existing walls. At this stage, AGAIN I state that this is unacceptable. I bought my home in a rural/agricultural area and no where did it state that the area would be changed into an industrial/commercial zone. The erection of this fencing will do nothing more that create an ugly appearance and will ruin the countryside.
6. The volume of traffic that is predicted for 2006 entering and leaving this facility is absolutely terrifying. This is a quiet village, and thus should be left as such, but a facility like this will do nothing more than create an industrial atmosphere, and the property value on my home, and homes in the area will fall.

The above are point on how this development has affectet me. I cannot stress enough how deeply concerned and anxious I feel about the ongoing situation, and what the future holds for me and my home. I trust that what I say will be taken seriously and that the relevant steps will be taken to secure a safe and healthy environment for all concerned.

Enclosed please find fee of €20.00.

Yours faithfully

Emer Davis

Berryleck Lane
Wilkinstown
Co Meath

046-9054222

~~Date 21 June 2004~~

**RE: PLANNING APPLICATION NA/40198
ORGANIC GOLD MARKETING LTD
WILKINSTOWN, CO MEATH**

Dear Sir/Madam

I would like to **OBJECT** to the above planning application and below I have outlined my reasons why.

1. I live at the end of a cul de sac, and to get to and from my house I have to pass by the border walls of the above premises. I am horrified that EVERY day I have to be subjected to the foul smells and gasses emanating from this yard in order to live my life. It is a constant worry to me that these smells are polluting the air. It is disgraceful that in this day and age one company can subject me, and other residents, to this air pollution, through the processing of rotting human waste and other equally foul smelling products. It is unacceptable that the air and the environment, in which I live, are being polluted by this development. As a result of these smells, I am restricted in my normal day to day living. Eg. unable to open my doors and windows due to bad smells.
2. The only access to my home is via the narrow lane at the rear of the above premises. I have been forced to return from walks on the lane because I was not able to pass by the premises due to the mists and vapour from the sprayer system that has been installed. The vapour and mists fall directly onto the lane and onto my face and person. I also would like to point out that the hideous sickly sweet smells from these sprayers do NOT disguise the pungent hideous smells from the yard... but only make the environment worse. I have recently suffered a major lung and respiratory infection and had to use an inhaler for the first time ever. I feel that the air and gasses that I am breathing in from this yard are to blame for my condition.
3. I would like to point out that my quality of life has been seriously affected since this yard was built. It is unacceptable that human waste sludge and other waste products can be dealt with on such a large scale without strict controls. I can see, from my home, the cloud of gasses from the rotting matter. Surely this is not acceptable in a rural area? This is most definitely NOT zoned an industrial area, and I would therefore expect it to be maintained as such.

4. I feel that walking from my house down the lane is now a health hazard for me and mine, due to the volume of vermin that this yard has attracted.. hundreds of crows, seagulls and rats. The birds carry waste from the yard and drop it on the lane, and onto my property. The volume of bird dirt is also disgusting and it is EVERYWHERE. It is NOT acceptable to have people, both children and adults, and pets walking in such dirt and waste.
5. A similar facility was constructed at St Anns Park in Clontarf, Co Dubin. This yard has also raised many health concerns for its local residents. Some are suffering from Aspergilosis, which is caused by breathing in of fungal spores. Does this have to happen to me and mine before something is done to close this development?
6. Since early January I watched this yard being built and the volumes of waste increase. The smells have been so bad on many occasions, that I have had to leave my house, and also visitors have left early with sick stomachs.
7. The development of this yard, I believe, has devalued my property. Who would want to pass by EVERY day this ugly sight and foul sickening smelly place? I find it difficult to do!..to watch and smell a beautiful rural area destroyed by the inability of a company to adhere to the rules and regulations of the local authority, and to have respect and regard for local residents.
8. I have contacted the planning department, since January and also the Environmental Department and the EPA. I have been worried sick about this development, which seems to be unstoppable, even though it has no permission to build or take in more waste. It STILL happens every week.
9. As far as my understanding goes, this development and mixing process has taken place beside my home WITHOUT planning permission and as such is an UNAUTHORISED development which MUST be stopped at this stage IMMEDIATELY under both current Planning and Environmental legislation. All waste materials from the process, toxic or harmful, must be removed from the site and the site restored to the previous safe condition, under the strict supervision of Environmental Services and assurances that this IS done produced by Meath County Council.
10. My observation of the application is that it seems vague and misleading in that the proposal appears to be to gain permission to bring in human waste sludge, offal etc for mixing and composting with chipped waste wood products in an OPEN yard as an extension of an ancillary to an existing permission. This proposal cannot be considered as an extension of an ancillary composting facility, to existing permitted development, under Planning Acts of Waste Management Act. Existing permit is for bagging, storage and composting of dewatered farm manure with sphagnum peat and dry powdered seaweed to achieve a stable and sterile product and involves spreading of water from process on local lands. This permitted development takes place INSIDE specially constructed building. The proposed development appears to entail composting of human sludge from treatment plants and septic tanks in an OPEN air yard.

11. I have not seen ANY reports or details of how this will impact on peoples' health or on the environment. NO reference was made to the harmful or toxic ingredients which may be present in the sludge or wood based products used in the process or emissions from same. NO reference was made to what will be done with the finished product. Surely if human waste is spread on local lands, an environmental impact study should be done to measure the effects of same? Has this product been tested and approved for proposed uses and can details of these tests be made available?

The above are points on how this development has affected me. I cannot stress enough how deeply concerned and anxious I feel about the ongoing situation, and what the future holds for me and my home. I trust that what I say will be taken seriously and that the relevant steps will be taken to secure a safe and healthy environment for all concerned.

Enclosed please find fee of Euro 20.00.

Yours faithfully

Emer Davis

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From : Michael Griffin <mgriffin@meathcoco.ie>
Sent : Wednesday, June 1, 2005 12:15 PM
To : 'Emer Davis' <emerjdavis@msn.com>
Subject : RE: Organic Gold

Emer
~~Our inspector called to the site yesterday and confirmed the presence of waste on site which was causing an odour. MCC has written to the operator confirming non compliance with his waste permit, and maintaining our position that he cease operations on the site pending resolution of all statutory obligations.~~
 Michael

-----Original Message-----
From: Emer Davis [SMTP:emerjdavis@msn.com]
Sent: 31 May 2005 09:20
To: mgriffin@meathcoco.ie
Subject: RE: Organic Gold

Thank you for your reply Michael. But however, I would like to inform you that at this very moment, 09:15 on Tuesday 31505 the smell is so bad from the yard, that I cannot leave my windows and doors open. The noise from the yard would also indicate machinery working. How can this be if what you said in your reply is what is happening? Please dont let the same thing happen as last year. The quality of life was absolutely nothing due to the sickening smells. And here we are again..16 months after my first contact with Meath County Council, and still suffering due to Organic Gold, and Meath County Council.

What do I have to do in order to get the fresh air back???

I look forward to your response.

Yours
 Emer Davis

>From: Michael Griffin <mgriffin@meathcoco.ie>
 >To: 'Emer Davis' <emerjdavis@msn.com>
 >Subject: RE: Organic Gold
 >Date: Mon, 30 May 2005 13:01:35 +0100
 >
 >Emer
 >Sorry for not responding to you last week. The current position is as follows:
 >
 >Meath Co Council Planning Department has met with our law agents with a view to achieving compliance with its statutory notices through the courts.
 >Meath Co Councils Environment Department has written to Organic Golds suppliers advising them that they shall not supply waste to the outdoor composting facility until all aspects of the various notifications of non



From : Michael Griffin <mgriffin@meathcoco.ie>
Sent : Monday, May 30, 2005 1:01 PM
To : 'Emer Davis' <emerjdavis@msn.com>
Subject : RE: Organic Gold

Emer
 Sorry for not responding to you last week. The current position is as follows:

Meath Co Council Planning Department has met with our law agents with a view to achieving compliance with its statutory notices through the courts. Meath Co Councils Environment Department has written to Organic Golds suppliers advising them that they shall not supply waste to the outdoor composting facility until all aspects of the various notifications of non compliance have been addressed.

Michael Griffin
 SEO
 Environment Dept

*Midland waste
 +
 Panda waste
 delivered
 last week.
 MCC were
 informed.*

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

From: Emer Davis [SMTP:emerjdavis@msn.com]
Sent: 30 May 2005 10:12
To: mgriffin@meathcoco.ie
Subject: Organic Gold

Dear Michael

I sent It would appear that I have not yet recieved a reply the e-mail that you on 11 May 2005. Perhaps you could respond, as we have a committee meeting this evening, and I would like to be able to inform the members of the Councils current position on the existing situation.

Many thanks

Emer Davis

 Meath County Council.
 E-mail: info@meathcoco.ie
 Web: www.meath.ie
 Tel: 046-9021581
 Fax: 046-9021463

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From : Michael Griffin <mgriffin@meathcoco.ie>
Sent : Wednesday, May 11, 2005 9:59 AM
To : 'Emer Davis' <emeridavis@msn.com>
Subject : RE: Organic Gold

Emer

You should by now have noted a reduction in the amount of raw material being imported onto the lower yard. Meath Co Council is using all avenues open to it to achieve cessation of windrow composting operations on the lower yard, until Organic Golds planning and Environmental obligations have been met in full

Michael

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

From: Emer Davis (SMTP:emeridavis@msn.com)
Sent: 09 May 2005 21:34
To: mgriffin@meathcoco.ie
Subject: Organic Gold

Dear Michael

I do not appear to have recieved a reply to my e-mail of the 03/05/05. Maybe you could give me an update to the situation, and how "legal" the situation is.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely

Emer Davis

Send a sexy animated wink with Messenger 7.0 - FREE download!
<http://messenger.msn.co.uk>

Meath County Council.
 E-mail: info@meathcoco.ie
 Web: www.meath.ie
 Tel: 046-9021581
 Fax: 046-9021463

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From : Michael Griffin <mgriffin@meathcoco.ie>
Sent : Wednesday, April 13, 2005 10:42 AM
To : Emer Davis <emerjdavis@msn.com>
Subject : RE: [Possible Spam] RE: Organic Gold

Emer

My response to you have been deliberately vague, as I have no wish to compromise this councils ability to seek compliance with the notification of non compliance .

I thank you for your report of additional material being imported and I will arrange confirmation of this claim by means of a site inspection this week.
 Michael

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

From: Emer Davis [SMTP:emerjdavis@msn.com]
Sent: 12 April 2005 14:50
To: mgriffin@meathcoco.ie
Subject: [Possible Spam] RE: Organic Gold

Michael,

Any further news on the situation? It is well over a month since we had the meeting, and it just seems as if Organic Gold can do what they want and how they want.

It would appear that the volume of waste has more than DOUBLED in the last week and a half. I have just seen a massive panda waste truck deliver a massive amount of waste to the yard.

What exactly is happening? Can you give me exact details instead of a vague description?

I await your response.

Yours sincerely

Emer Davis

>From: Michael Griffin <mgriffin@meathcoco.ie>
 >To: 'Emer Davis' <emerjdavis@msn.com>
 >Subject: RE: Organic Gold
 >Date: Mon, 04 Apr 2005 09:54:26 +0100

>Emer

>This process is now at a very delicate stage. MCC has issued directives and

>has received responses from the company. I have no wish to compromise and

>legal route the Council may no wish to take, by making further comment

>. The Councils position remains unaltered , in that we will explore every

>opportunity to ensure that operations on the lower yard cease pending

>regularisation of the companies statutory obligations, . Those options

>include legal action .

>Michael Griffin

>

>-----Original Message-----

> From: Emer Davis [SMTP:emerjdavis@msn.com]
 > Sent: 03 April 2005 18:22