

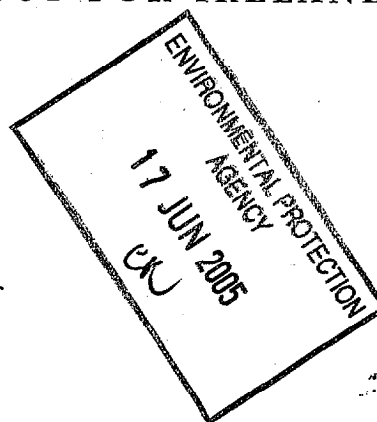


AN TAISCE – THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR IRELAND

Environmental Protection Agency
P.O. Box 3000
Johnstown Castle Estate
Waterford

Reg. no. 756.

15 June 2005



RE: Revised Licence for Wyeth Medica Ireland, Newbridge, Co Kildare

Dear Sir/Madam,

Before considering a revised licence application, we submit that:

1. Compliance with existing licence(s) must be fully resolved as a preliminary matter
2. Issue of waste contamination of Dutch pig population (see *Irish Times* reports)

Yours sincerely,


IAN LUMLEY
Heritage Officer

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Main File ✓ + OEE
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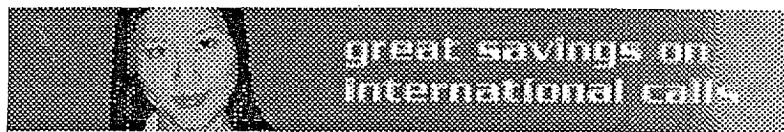
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23/10/2003

Thu,

File sent to DPP over polluted pig feed case

Liam Reid

The Director of Public Prosecutions has received a file on the contamination of animal feed with pharmaceutical waste which contained fertility hormones.

The file is one of three criminal investigations into suspected serious breaches of environmental law that have been referred to the DPP in recent months by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The referrals are believed to be among the first environmental cases ever referred to the DPP. The Environmental Protection Agency has previously relied on summary prosecutions in the District Court when it comes to alleged breaches of pollution regulations.

The contamination of Dutch pig feed with Irish waste containing the human fertility hormone MPA in July 2002 led to one of the biggest food scares of recent years in Europe.

Some 55,000 pigs were slaughtered, while half of the 7,000 pig farmers in Holland were forced to close their businesses temporarily.

An investigation subsequently established that the feed had been contaminated with sugar water containing traces of MPA, which had been used in the coating of contraceptive pills at Wyeth Medica Ireland, in Newbridge, Co Kildare.

A report by the Environmental Protection Agency in July 2002 found this had been released to the Dublin-based waste management company Cara Environmental Technology for disposal.

It in turn had sold the sugar water to a now bankrupt Belgian company, Bioland, which sold it as treacle to Dutch feed compounders. The waste had incorrectly been classified in 2000 as green waste, the report said.

At the time, Wyeth Medica said it was co-operating fully with all investigations by the Irish authorities.

Cara also said it had believed that the waste it exported to Bioland was being disposed of correctly.

Two files relating to illegal waste operations have also been referred by the Environmental Protection Agency to the DPP.

According to informed sources, files on four separate dump sites in Wicklow are currently being finalised by the Garda, and will also be sent

ireland.com
THE IRISH TIMES



Tuesday,
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THE IRISH TIMES

7/8/2002

Dutch farmers to sue Irish firms for losses of €100m in pig industry

By Dick Ahlstrom, Science Editor

A massive pig cull is under way in the Netherlands, involving the destruction of 50,000 animals thought to be contaminated by hormone-tainted waste originally sent from Ireland. Dutch farmers have said they will attempt to sue two Irish firms for losses of up to €100 million arising from the disruption caused to pig production.

The original food safety scare emerged last month after sows on a number of Dutch farms were unexpectedly unable to conceive. They had been fed a sugar syrup containing the hormone MPA (Medroxyprogesterone acetate), a constituent of birth control pills.

The discovery shut down most pig production in the Netherlands for a time and eventually affected 11 EU states. The exposure was later narrowed down to pigs on 27 Dutch farms. All of the animals had received a feed additive produced in Belgium from waste sugar water shipped from the Republic.

All pigs on the 27 farms will be destroyed over the next 10 days and their bodies disposed of as waste material. The total damages to farmers included the 50,000 animals but also the temporary closure of most of the 14,000 Dutch pig farms during the past month, said Mr Jack Luiten, spokesman for the Dutch Agricultural and Horticultural Organisation.

"Costs will be in the tens of millions of euros at least, and probably over €100 million," he said. "We have decided to look where blame can be laid and that is with those who are responsible for introducing MPA into the food chain."

The hormone's path into pig feed was traced to Wyeth Medica, a Newbridge, Co Kildare, pharmaceutical plant. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prepared a report on the incident and forwarded it last month to EU animal food experts in Brussels.

The waste sugar water arose during the sugar-coating of contraceptive pills at the plant. It was released to the Dublin-based waste management company Cara Environmental Technology for disposal. It in turn sold the sugar water to a now bankrupt Belgian company, Bioland, which sold it as treacle to Dutch feed compounders.

Mr Luiten said the farmers' organisation believed Wyeth and Cara should have made sure the water was disposed of properly and that it has sent both firms letters indicating the farmers held the two responsible for damages.