

Sub ⑨

Environmental
Protection Agency
22 NOV 2005
P.H.

Coiste Ghleann Domhain,
c/o Marian Gibbons, Secretary,
Derrora,
Church Hill,
Letterkenny, Co. Donegal

November 17th 2005

215-1

EPA Headquarters
P.O. Box 3000
Johnstown Castle Estate
Co. Wexford

Ref #: EPA 215/1 Submission on the application, by Donegal County Council, for a Waste Management Licence to operate a Landfill at Meenaboll, at the top of Glendowan.

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are deeply concerned at the probable impact of this proposed landfill on the area of Glendowan, which we as a community group seek to promote and represent. Glendowan district begins 1.5 miles below the proposed site, extends to the edge of Glenveagh National Park and to Gartan Lake. The Owenbeg River which rises beside the proposed site runs through Glendowan to the Bulluba River and on to Gartan Lake - the Public Water Supply for about 600 houses.

Our greatest concern is that Donegal County Council have based the safety of this landfill on the premise of 'containment'.

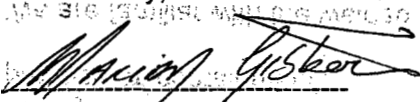
We are familiar with the welded membrane, which is used to theoretically seal the cells, but are also aware of the failure rates being experienced in the USA. Having looked at the actual membrane we find it to be easily damaged and consider the 'weld', of 1/2 inch, to be the weak link. The modern materials now entering landfills are creating extreme temperatures and explosions, which cause the weld to separate. The Internet is awash with such reports. Donegal County Council officials and the Consultants have admitted to us that there will be some leakage and the EIS refers to heavy rainfalls causing 'minimal' spillage. The LandSim modelling (sect. 13.60) also indicates that the volume of leachate leakage will be minimal. So now we are talking about 'minimising' the damage and not containing it. That may be acceptable in a low-lying site with no water sources nearby, but not at such an elevated and sensitive site as Meenaboll.

Given its elevation of 800 to 1000 feet, its double sloping (to Fintown and Glendowan) nature and the fact that it is on the side of a mountain, we are dumbfounded.

Add to this the fact that it is one of the wettest spots in Ireland (2400mm p.a.), surface water is continually flowing to the River Finn and Glendowan and that the Polladoo Stream runs through the proposed site, it will not be possible to 'contain' such natural occurrences.

We are in the process of finalising our Group Water Scheme for the Glendowan Area (about 60 houses) and are seriously concerned at the possible negative impact that this proposed landfill and any resulting pollution would create.

Yours Truly,



Marian Gibbons (Chairperson)