

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY

14 FEB 2005

Sub No. 76

An Bothar Bui,
An Cheathru Rua,
Co. na Gaillimhe.
9 Feabhra 2005

The Secretary,
Environmental Protection Agency,
PO Box 3000,
Johnstown Castle Estate,
Co. Wexford.

A Chara,

It has been brought to my attention that your organisation has a central role in permitting Shell E&P Ireland to use the pristine unspoilt coastal haven surrounding the Mullet peninsula, Co. Mayo, as a refuse site for the disposal of very harmful chemical waste and dangerous metals including mercury, zinc and iron. As a water sports enthusiast and regular visitor to this area I strongly object the proposed plan to discharge up to 3 tonnes harmful substances into this marine sanctuary, as an environmental catastrophe is imminent.

Under EU legislation your organisation is obliged to protect much of the marine life found in these coastal waters. I advice that you refer to a study carried out by University College Cork entitled "**Marine mammal monitoring in the waters of Broadhaven Bay and northwest Mayo**" for a more detailed examination of the marine species found in this area. If this shameful project is passed and permitted by the EPA much of the marine life is under immediate threat. Not only would they have to content with the highly dangerous carbon and methanol waste discharged daily from the outfall pipe in Broadhaven Bay but their survival would also be threatened by the drill cuttings that would accumulate and remain stagnant at the base of the offshore oil platforms. These drill cuttings contain as much as 40,000 tonnes of contaminated sediments. These adverse changes would ensure a rapid deterioration of the favourable environmental conditions found off the Mullet peninsula.

I reiterate my objection and concerns by highlighting the environmental disaster experienced by the Ogoni people in Nigeria whose homeland, Ogoniland, once a lush coastal rainforest on the Niger delta has been exploited beyond sustainability by Shell, for the price of oil. Is your organisation prepared to sacrifice one of our rich marine environments for the price of oil?

Le meas

Cormac O Loideain

Cormac O Loideain

EPA

Main File ☒

Public File ☒

Evaluation File ☒

14/2/05