

151
White Gables,
Kilready,
Castlemahon,
Co. Limerick.

24th September 2004

Mr. Pól Ó Seasnáin,
Inspector,
Office of Environmental Enforcement,
South/South West Region,
Environmental Protection Agency,
Inniscarra,
Co. Cork.

Dear Mr. Ó Seasnáin,

Re: Castlemahon Food Products Your Reference M46/gc84pos.doc

Please find enclosed a submission by a number of Castlemahon residents concerning the revision of the Castlemahon Food Products I.P.C. licence. Unfortunately some of the group of residents have gone on holiday and therefore have not signed this document. Owing to time constraints I am sending you this first copy with some signatures missing and will send you a copy with a complete set of signatures immediately the holiday-makers return.

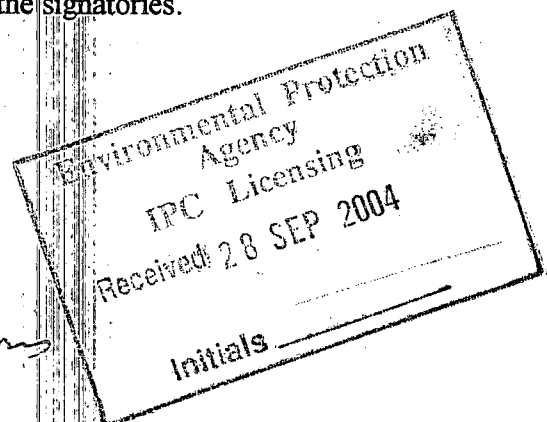
I am also enclosing separate submissions from some of the signatories.

Trusting that this is in order,

Yours sincerely,

Hugh Williams.

Hugh Williams



EPA
Main File ☒
Public File ☒ X2
Evaluation File ☒ WDC
Date 5/10/04

Submission to the Environmental Protection Agency concerning the revision of the Integrated Pollution Control licence granted to Castlemahon Food Products, Castlemahon, Co. Limerick.

We, the undersigned, wish to draw the Agency's attention to the following points:

The village of Castlemahon has been blighted for many years by malodorous emissions from the Castlemahon Food Products factory, which, despite a succession of complaints continues to this day. Some results of this are:

- We do not enjoy the normal right to breathe fresh untainted air.
- Malodours make it extremely unpleasant to work or relax in our gardens.
- It is often necessary to keep windows closed to prevent smells permeating into the house thus making conditions unpleasantly hot during the summer months and making sleep difficult.
- The smell problem is well known in the West Limerick area and people are unwilling to move into the village. This not only makes it difficult to sell property in the area but also depresses prices.

As a group we have been endeavouring, since 1997, to get Castlemahon Food Products to eliminate these foul odours. All to little avail. We have also submitted monthly reports on this nuisance to the E.P.A. since May 1999.

There was an improvement in air quality for a while which appeared to coincide with a ban by the Department of Agriculture on processing offal from outside sources. Since this ban was lifted air quality has got worse.

Castlemahon Food Products has rarely admitted to making malodorous emissions but have blamed the smells on slurry spreading or tried to prove that the wind was blowing away from the village by quoting wind directions taken at Shannon Airport.

Most of the residents of the village have a country background and are well aware of the difference between the smell of slurry and that emanating from the factory.

Castlemahon is situated on a valley floor on the banks of the river Deel. These conditions often produce a local climate of wind swirls and eddies which are often at variance with meteorological readings taken a few miles away let alone those taken at Shannon, 25 miles distant on the flat plains of the Shannon estuary. The factory windsock has been checked on numerous occasions and has always pointed to the area experiencing the bad odour. An example of this occurred in the early afternoon of August 8th 2003 when there was a bad smell at Hugh Williams's House. The windsock was observed to be pointing towards the house though the wind direction recorded in the Shannon Airport Met. Report differed significantly (Letter to K. Fahy, Castlemahon Foods, dated 30.9.03 cc EPA)

From time to time the centre of the village has been affected by continuous machinery noise. This has been reported to the factory and for a while eliminated. Regrettably this noise has lately re-occurred.

The current I.P.C. licence issued in 1996 appears to cover the production of malodorous emissions. Paragraph 6.3. states "The licensee shall ensure that all operations on-site shall be carried out in a manner such that air emissions and/or odours do not result in significant impairment of, or significant interference with amenities or the environment beyond the site boundary." The difficulty would appear to be how to define "significant." In any case the problem seems to be more one of compliance, or the lack of it.

Castlemahon Food Products has a poor record of compliance with their IPC licence conditions. We feel therefore that stricter enforcement is the only way to improve the situation. History shows that they certainly will not do so voluntarily.

We do not oppose the factory per se as it provides a lot of employment in the area and generates business, what we strongly object to is the way the factory, by polluting our atmosphere, adversely affects our quality of life and the cavalier attitude shown by the management to environmental regulations.

We look forward to a time when we can enjoy a continuously clean odour-free atmosphere and will no longer have the onerous task of compiling reports on air quality.

Thomas Kennedy

Thomas Kennedy

Breda Kennedy

Breda Kennedy

Hugh Williams

Hugh Williams

Ena Williams

Ena Williams

Joan McMahon

Joan A. McMahon

Dan Kennedy

Dan Kennedy

Bridget Kennedy

Bridget Kennedy

Peter Kay

Peter Kay

Anne Keane

Donal Kennedy

Patricia Kennedy

White Gables,
Kilready,
Castlemahon,
Co. Limerick.

3rd October 2004

Mr. Pól Ó Seasnáin,
Inspector,
Office of Environmental Enforcement,
South/South West Region,
Environmental Protection Agency,
Inniscarra,
Co. Cork.

Dear Mr. Ó Seasnáin,

Re: Castlemahon Food Products Your Reference M46/gc84pos.doc

Further to my letter of September 24th I am enclosing a copy of our submission complete with the missing signatures.

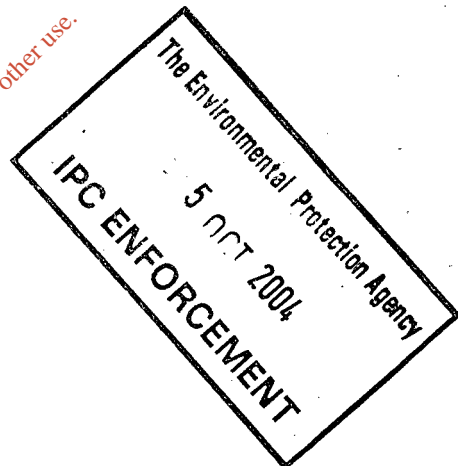
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Yours sincerely,

Hugh Williams.

Hugh Williams

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EPA

MAIN FILE ✓

PUBLIC FILE

EVALUATION FILE M500

DATE 9/10/04 (CW)

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