

EPA
MAIN FILE
PUBLIC FILE
EVALUATION FILE
16/06/05
Environmental Protection Agency,
EPA Headquarters,
PO Box 3000
Johnstown Castle Estate,
Co. Wexford

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY
16 JUN 2005
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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY WASTE LICENSING
RECEIVED
16 JUN 2005
INITIALS.....

'Teach Fheorais',
Killowen,
Rhode,
Offaly
14th June 2005

Dear Sir/Madam

We wish to protest most strongly to the granting of a licence to Lagan Cement, Killeskillen, Kinnegad for the burning of meat and bone meal or any other fuel other than that for which they received a licence when they were granted their original licence.

In good faith we accepted their word that no other fuels would be burned when they were looking for permission originally. We moved here on the basis that we would be guaranteed a good quality of life. My husband suffers from Parkinson's Disease and I have had a Mastectomy for breast cancer and also a Hysterectomy. We need to live out the rest of our lives in the best possible surroundings. We examined the documentation from Lagan Cement, and on the basis that it was a very safe plant, and the promise by them, that no other fuels would be used, we built our house safe in the knowledge that we were doing our utmost to provide as ideal living conditions as was humanly possible for the duration of our lives.

We are shocked that we were totally misled. Since this year began there have been fugitive emissions, and a fallout through human error. The Health and Safety Officer from Lagan Cement called to our house and told us that it was human error. We are very stressed because of this human error and find it difficult to sleep at night as we do not know when there will be another error and we will be breathing in far more than the fresh air that we planned for. We have to close our windows at night because of this fear. I find it extremely difficult to sleep without a fresh airflow. As a basic human right we are entitled to fresh uncontaminated air and water. I should not be stressed like this. My husband should not be stressed. We now find it extremely difficult to believe anything that Lagan Cement tells us. There is no guarantee that the meat and bone meal that it is proposed burning will not be contaminated. Some cattle could be sent for slaughter before being diagnosed. As far as I am aware all carcasses go down the same chute for disposal. If Lagan Cement get a licence to burn meat and bone meal they will then have fulfilled all the criteria necessary for burning other fuels and there are a huge amount of other materials that may be used as fuel. We cannot afford another human error.

When Lagan Cement first proposed building their factory, I believe that they stated that the area was sparsely populated. What does this mean? Does this mean that because there are not many people that their health and safety do not matter. Surely every single

person is important or so it says in our constitution. If our constitution guarantees us a right to life, surely it is concerned with our quality of life also. Surely our lives are as important as the horses in Tipperary! This is a cry in the wilderness. If you do not protect us we do not have the recourses to fight this alone. We have been to meetings where people have expressed their fears, their love of their land handed down for generations, their hopes for their children and grandchildren and the utter despair that they cannot protect any of these. We are not influential moneyed people who can threaten to take their money elsewhere. We have to depend on you to protect us and our environment.

Three Politicians have attended our meetings, two of them County Councillors. The Councillors apologised profusely for making the mistake of voting in favour of Lagan Cement when they were going to build their plant. They acknowledged their mistake and have offered their services to help to redress this problem in any way they can.

Unfortunately they do not have a vote in this planning permission. We depend on you. The level of concern and fear is very high.

Human error has been acknowledged by Lagan Cement when we were covered in fallout, (human error with the burning of other fuels could be more significant and dangerous), we therefore must object in the strongest possible manner to the granting of a licence to Lagan Cement, for the burning of meat and bone meal or any other fuel.

In fact it was human error that caused the catastrophe that was Chernobyl, a state of the art plant.

By granting this licence our stress levels will be severely increased and consequently our quality of life damaged irreparably.

Teresa, Aisling and Aoife all suffer from allergies. Anything extra in the air is a source of great concern to us.

We are very aware of decisions made in the past thought to be completely safe yet ten/twenty years down the line we discover to our detriment that they are now a very concerning health hazard i.e.: overhead high density power lines are considered to contribute to childhood leukaemia, fluoride in the drinking water that became mandatory and dentists now say it is a contributory factor in bone cancer in children, I could go on and on.

I believe that the function of the Environmental Protection Agency is to protect our environment so please, please protect it and subsequently us.

Yours sincerely,

Charles Bermingham

Teresa Bermingham

Aisling Bermingham

Aoife Bermingham

PS. Please acknowledge receipt of our letter. Thank you