



"Rossbeigh"
Colehill
Kinnegad
Co Westmeath
20 June 2005

EPA

Office of Licensing and Conditions
EPA Headquarters
PO Box 3000
Johnstown Castle Estate
Co. Wexford

MAIN FILE ☒
PUBLIC FILE ☒
EVALUATION FILE ☒
DATE 30/6/05 go

To whom it may concern,

I live in Colehill Ballinabrackey along with my wife Patricia and our two young children, Shane aged 9 and Conor aged 5. Both My wife and I were born and reared in this area have lived all of our life here. We think that this is a lovely area to live along with our family with the clean air and the quiet rural landscape,

However I am now very concerned about the proposal by Lagan Cement to burn Meat and Bone Meal (MBM) as a fuel source at the Killaskillen Cement Plant.

We wish to object to this proposal on the following grounds:

The potential health risks to residents, livestock, pregnant women and unborn children. This is due to the exposure to Dioxins that may be released through the burning of MBM. I believe that insufficient research has been carried out to suggest that there is not a potential risk to health and the environment by the burning of MBM

There are also other methods of disposal of MBM such as Alkaline Hydrolysis, Anaerobic digestion etc which are safe methods

We have to remember that we have to keep our environment safe for our children and not pollute or poison it

We are also very concerned about;

- Potential risk to groundwater quality (which since operations began at the Lagan site, many adjoining neighbours have seen a decrease in their ground water quality).
- Potential risk to air quality.
- Potential of dioxins entering the food chains through the crops and livestock of our district.

- The inevitable de-valuation of property both residential and farming as a result of the burning of MBM at this plant. (In recent times many persons looking to purchase in the district have been disinclined due to the proximity of the Lagan enterprise.)
- The potential of our minor roads once again becoming used by heavy vehicles going to and from Lagan in a dangerous circumstances. (In the past there have been many near misses due to heavy traffic en route to Lagan)
- The potential loss of farming livelihood due to the dioxins, pollutants of groundwater, air quality etc..

We have very serious concerns that the initial burning of MBM fuels will eventually result in the incineration of many more forms of waste material at this site in the future. This is not acceptable to a rural community trying to live in a clean, healthy environmental area.

We were told initially when the cement factory was launched that it would be the cleanest in Europe and that there would be no residues of lime or cement on the road. Yet the public road from the entrance of the factory towards Kinnegad is continuously white with dust and on wet days is covered by a white sticky substance.

Lagan Cement also stated at that time that they had no intention to burn any waste material of any type

Earlier this year there was a release of dust to the atmosphere which Lagan. Stated that it was caused by human error

This leaves me with very little confidence in the ownership and management of this operation towards the welfare of it's community neighbours. I feel further concessions to the applicant will result in further breaches of environmental policy to the detriment of the local community in general.

When Lagan cement decided to tell its neighbours of its application that it had submitted to Meath County Council for planning permission they invited them in small groups. I feel that if they had nothing to hide that they would have called a public meeting and explain all of the facts.

When I asked at one of these meetings about the dangers of dioxins being emitted, I was told by Mr. Jude Lagan to: (The following are his own words)

"Ask the EPA " **"The EPA are the watchdogs for the environment "**

I am asking you now to protect the future Environment for the people and the future generations by preventing the burning of MBM in Lagan Cement at Killaskillen

If you require any clarification on any of the above please do not hesitate to contact us

Yours sincerely,

Seamus Finn

