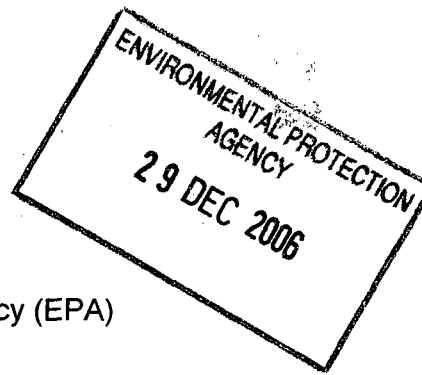


sub (4)

Jim Reidy
Ballinabrook
Mitchelstown
Co. Cork



20 December 2006

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
PO Box 3000
Johnstown Castle Estate
Co. Wexford

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Proposed Anaerobic Digestion Facility: Ballard, Araglin, Co Cork
EPA reference number: W0230-01.**

We would like to make a submission regarding the above proposed development at Ballard, Araglin as we know that they have made an application to yourselves for a waste licence.

We live about 8 miles from the proposed site but we have land on which we keep cattle and sometimes horses less than $\frac{3}{4}$ km from the proposed site and visit the area daily. We have used this land for 15 years.

Like many of the surrounding community, we are deeply concerned about the risks of such a plant in this beautiful rural area. It would have a huge impact visually on the scenic landscape, both during the day and at night (due to lighting), because of its enormous scale.

We are also concerned about the threat to the groundwater of the area from the construction project firstly and then from the operation of the plant itself.

Before being treated, the materials present on the site would be highly dangerous to the groundwater and waterways of the area (and the Muchnagh Stream is an SAC). Then there is a danger, if there is a fire on the site, and huge amounts of water are used to control this by the Fire Service, that contaminated water will eventually drain into the same waterways. From everything we have read about the plant and from attending the An Bord Pleanala Oral Hearing recently in Mitchelstown, it doesn't seem that this threat is being taken seriously enough.

We talk about a possible fire or explosion there – how long would it take the Fire Service to get to this site which is a rural, agricultural area served by roads which are substandard – and what damage could already have been done to the surrounding environment by that time?

We are also concerned about the health of ourselves, as we are in the vicinity of the plant daily, and our animals. It appears there will be emissions from the plant and some of these are highly dangerous to human and animal health. Then there is always the danger of an accident that could increase these emissions drastically. Veterinary evidence was given at the same Oral Hearing by an experienced Vet and his overall feeling was that there would be no danger BUT only as long as everything went perfectly at the plant. This is not very reassuring as accidents can always happen. If there is an accident, human beings may be told to remain indoors with doors and windows shut to give them some protection but what would happen to the animals in the fields? The developer or the EPA would not be able to help them then.

Even though we live 8 miles away, so little is known about the effects of this type of plant, who knows how it may affect us at our home as well?

We are also concerned about the problem of odours from the site. As we said, we come to the area daily – often more than once – and it is a beautiful part of Ireland. If odours from the site become a problem (as is the case with many waste facilities), we will be rushing to do our jobs as quickly as possible and get away from the area – this is not how we want to tend to our animals and do our work and make our living.

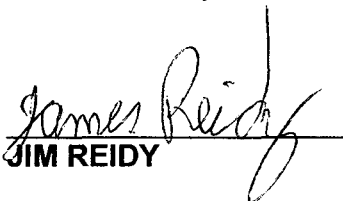
There is also the problem of noise from the plant (not to mention the significant number of heavy goods vehicles entering and leaving for 14 hours a day). This plant will be operating 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It is an industrial-style process and the noise will change this rural area forever.

The plant is supposed to be (according to the developer) a “green” plant but from everything we heard about the plant at the Oral Hearing and everything we already knew, we don’t feel this is the case. Even the Green Party had someone there who spoke against it.

A plant on this scale using the process the developer wants to use has not been done anywhere in the world before and nobody knows what could happen if this one is built.

We would hope that the EPA will investigate the above points fully and refuse a waste licence for this oversized and completely inappropriate development in this area.

Yours sincerely


JIM REIDY