

Sub 7

Ewa Babiarczyk

From: Noeleen Keavey
Sent: 08 January 2007 12:01
To: Ewa Babiarczyk
Subject: FW: Ref: W0230-01 SUBMISSION by E-mail
Attachments: Observations Valeco.doc; Home objection.doc

Hi Ewa

Could you treat this as a submission for Waste Licence W0230-01

Thanks

Noeleen

Subject: Ref: W0230-01

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am attaching two letters that were submitted to Cork County Council and The Planning Authority with regard to the proposed construction of an Anaerobic Digester in Araglen, Kilworth, Co. Cork by Valeco.

As a member of the community, I am extremely worried about the environmental impact such a proposal would have on our lives and that of our children.

There is no guarantee that there will not be dangerous emissions from this plant. I am not confident of any procedures that might be in place should there be an accident in the plant as this is the first plant of this size to be considered here. This area is surrounded by watercourses that feed into the Araglen and then on into the Blackwater River, which is a major waterway.

The effects of such a large project in the heart of a country area, without the proper infrastructure to facilitate its functioning efficiently, is beyond imagination at this stage, and the effects it will have on our lives, that of our children, of the surrounding farming community, the community school, the local villages in the area, families close to the facility, wild animal habitats and many, many environmental areas will destroy our community.

I am wholeheartedly against this project. Please consider my observations regarding the application for a waste licence for the Anaerobic Digester in Ballard, Araglen, Kilworth, Co. Cork.

Yours sincerely,

Niamh Allen
Gortnaskehy
Araglen
Kilworth
Co. Cork

087-2169749

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08/01/2007

Gortnaskehy
Araglen
Kilworth
Co. Cork
10th August 2006

An Bord Pleanála
64 Marlborough St
Dublin 1

**Re: PL 04.218581
Proposed Anaerobic Digester at Ballard, Araglen, Kilworth Co. Cork**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for this opportunity to give you our observations on the above.

It was with great relief that we heard that Cork County Council had the wisdom to refuse permission for the above. Having said that, and agreeing whole heartedly with their reasons for refusing permission, there are many, many other more relevant reasons why permission should have been refused.

Road Infrastructure

Araglen is a rural area with a large farming community. We do not have public transport in the area, and are therefore dependant on our own transport to get to local towns for business, work, schooling etc. The road infrastructure, contrary to observations that have been made, is just about suitable for local traffic and would be unable to sustain the amount of HGV traffic that is intended to service this plant. Not only that, the conditions of the roads and the size of the roads are not suitable for HGV traffic. Maintenance to a good and safe standard would become an issue in a very short time. Access through Kilworth village would be, without doubt, impossible, as the main road through the village is a narrow road that even now with normal through traffic, is bottlenecked at the junction beside the Garda Station and Tony Flynn's local shop. That does not involve large lorries, but ordinary family cars, 4 X 4, some tractors and occasionally delivery trucks and lorries. The damage by large trucks, in air pollution and vibration, to local residents and their homes, would also certainly be a very important issue. Both my husband and I are dependant on this road infrastructure and use it daily to get to and from our places of work. Our children also travel this route to their schools in Fermoy during school terms. We are concerned for our safety. All other alternative routes to this site will be affected in a similar way, and are in no way suitable. The by-road to the site itself is a narrow road, which will just about take a HGV lorry going in one direction, with no opportunity to pass. I cannot emphasise strongly enough, the unsuitability of any of the access routes to this site, for the suggested volume of traffic (HGV or otherwise) planned and the detrimental effect this traffic would have on the lives of the residents of the area in their normal day to day activities. I dread the day that these lorries take over our roads.

Local School

The school was not mentioned in the refusal. This is a two teacher school with an average of 46 pupils attending. It is, as the crow flies, approximately 500 metres from the proposed site. The whole community is concerned at the effect that this proposal will have on the school, in the area of health and safety and quality of life while attending the school. We are aware that Valeco maintains that there will be little or no smell from their plant, but given the very nature of the work involved, we find this very difficult to believe. No one wants their children to attend a school that may have to keep their children indoors because of environmental issues. There have to be emissions from this plant, controlled or otherwise, that would not be suitable to inflict on young developing children. We would fear that, because of the proximity of the plant to the school, that parents will fear for their children's health and choose to send their children to other schools, and that eventually we would lose the heart of our community. Children would attend schools outside their community, and our community would feel the loss of this in years to come. Strong friendships and bonds are developed while in school, and the possible loss of these links would be destructive to a small close knit community.

Asset to the Community

Araglen will not gain in any way by the construction of this plant in our area. There will be no employment gained, no economic value to our community or area. In actual fact, the most likely scenario is that property, both farming and housing, will devalue, as there will be no interest by anyone to move into our community that will be over-run by lorries carrying waste material to the plant.

Air pollution, not only from the plant, but from the emissions of the large number of lorries hauling materials to and from the plant, noise pollution, visual pollution, environmental pollution and all other pollutions are not generally seen as assets in any area.

20 very large tanks (larger than houses from what I understand), gas flares 37.3 metres high, gas cleaning vessels 22 meters high, stacks 30.3 m high, cooling towers and all other structures that are planned for this site have to be very difficult to camouflage in an area of scenic beauty that is protected by law (a special area of conservation and a scenic route).

Waste Materials

The haulage of waste materials to and from this plant, in such an out of the way area, which has no access to train, or any other means of efficient and economical haulage, is not a practical proposition. The proposal is to transport waste materials such as bone meal and waste meat and offal products from the greater Munster area. We believe that some of the products that will be processed here will be bio-hazardous.

Plant Safety and Controls

This proposal and submission is based on the plant working without any accident. In any plant, there will be, at some time or another, accidents both mechanical and human. With the type of waste material proposed, the effect on the environment would be disastrous. It is beside a tributary of the Araglin River, which is a tributary of the Blackwater River.

Pollution of this water system will always be a possibility. Air and smell pollution is also a high risk.

Location

Given the fact that only 'windscreen' views of other areas were considered, I would think that there are other far more suitable locations in the Cork area that could be considered where there is proper infrastructure already available by way of transport, use of facilities and access to customers who could use whatever energy would be produced from an anaerobic digester at a much lower cost to Valeco.

These are only some of the observations we wish to make for your consideration when making your decision on the appeal to the refusal of planning permission.

To summarise:

1. As concerned residents of the Araglen area, we do not want this plant to proceed in Ballard.
2. We are concerned for the health and safety of ourselves and our children in relation to environmental pollution and traffic pollution.
3. We are concerned for the safety of the teachers and children of our National School.
4. We do not feel that the road infrastructure from any direction to the plant can sustain the intended HGV traffic.
5. We are concerned about the effects of this plant on the quality of our lives in Araglen.
6. We are concerned at the nature of the products intended for anaerobic digestion in this plant and the quantity of these products.
7. We are concerned about the impact this plant will have on all aspects of our environment.
8. We are concerned for the future of our community as a whole.
9. Should this proposal be allowed to go ahead, the construction of the plant would also have as much a detrimental effect on everyone in the Araglen, Kilworth, Ballygiblin and other areas as the running of the plant.

We do not want to stop progression and would welcome development in the Araglen area. However, the size and nature of the plant proposed for Ballard, Araglen is unsuitable for the area intended, non-economic given its location, and would be detrimental rather than an asset to this community. The road infrastructure will not be able to cope with the volumes of traffic intended and the type of vehicles planned. Our environment will be affected, our quality of life will be affected and our community will be destroyed.

Again, thank you for your consideration of our observations.

Yours faithfully,

Niamh and John Allen
10th August 2006

'The Forge'
Gortnaskehy
Araglen
Kilworth
Co. Cork

22nd May 2006

Planning Dept.
Cork County Council
Model Business Park
Model Farm Road
Bishopstown
CORK

Dear Sir/Madam,

**REF: PLANNING APPLICATION 06/6651 VALECO
ANEROBIC DIGESTER FACILITY AT BALLARD, ARAGLIN,
KILWORTH, CO. CORK**

We, John Allen and Niamh Allen, wish to object to the Valeco proposal as referenced above on behalf of ourselves and our children, Christine (aged 14) and Brendan (aged 12) on the following grounds:

- (a) We fear that the proposal will cause unsustainable heavy traffic on roads that are incapable of handling them and that this traffic pollution will affect our lives both from a quality of life perspective and health and safety perspective, in that both of us travel these roads on a daily basis, getting to and from our places of work. Both of our children travel through Kilworth to get to school and we feel that this excessive traffic will endanger their lives.
- (b) The proposal will be unsightly and does not fit into the integral make up of this countryside, a very important fact that has to be taken into consideration when we, members of the public, make application for permission to build our homes in this area. We feel that this is an industrial site being proposed in close proximity to a Special area of Conservation.
- (c) This is a close knit community, of which we as a family are part of; we do not want this community destroyed by a proposal that will have absolutely no benefit to us. Rather, it will have the effect of devaluing our properties. We will live with the possibility of our waterways being polluted, our air being polluted, and our peace of mind being affected by the dangers of such high volumes of large vehicles travelling on narrow roads, not suitable for such volumes of traffic.
- (d) Our primary school is located approximately 500 metres from the proposal. With the above pollutions mentioned, and the environmental effects from this proposal, we fear that we will eventually lose this important part of Araglen, because parents will fear for their children's health and well being. The children attending the school will be limited in their outside activities and the possibility of sitting in

the school with all the windows tightly shut due to smells and pollutions is not what we want for our children.

We moved to this community from Dublin eight years ago to offer our children and ourselves a better quality of life. This is our home and our lives and the lives of our children feel threatened by this proposal. We have worked long and hard to reach this point in our lives, where we are able to provide a good standard of living for our children. Both our jobs will be adversely affected by the excessive traffic in the area and we are very worried about this. At the moment, I (Niamh) have to leave home at 7.30 am and return home at 6.30/6.45 pm. I don't wish to be out of my home any longer than this. John is a blacksmith and services people within a 30 mile radius of our home. Again, the traffic is going to affect his ability to provide a good service, and his client base is dependent on a prompt and efficient service.

For all of the above reasons we object strongly to the anaerobic digester facility proposed by Valeco.

Yours faithfully,

John & Niamh Allen

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