



The Rice Family  
 Billeragh  
 Araglen  
 Kilworth  
 Co Cork

20<sup>th</sup> February 2007

Environmental Protection Agency  
 P.O Box 3000  
 Johnston Castle Estate  
 Co Wexford

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

**Ref: W0230-01**

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing on behalf of the Rice family, Billeragh, Araglen, to express our outright shock and dismay at the possibility of planning permission being granted to the building of an anaerobic digestion plant at Ballard, Araglen. Planning permission has already been refused for very substantial reasons and on that occasion, justice was done.

We cannot possibly believe that all reasons will be rectified sufficiently, so that planning permission should be allowed on a second occasion. Araglen, as a community, has suffered the ignominy of the planning process, the reporting of illegal dumping at the site since the early 1990's and subsequent lack of enforcement of the law by Cork County Council. Our trust in the official authorities was at an all time low. Despite this, we assiduously followed and put our trust in the law and, planning and other relevant authorities. The blatant disregard for the law shown by Cork County Council and the owner of the proposed site for the anaerobic digestion plant was highlighted in the European Court Case 494/01, in a decision, that rapped the Irish Government, for failure to abide by the law.

We fervently believe; that it is only because of the tight knit community of Araglen and the belief of its residents, to do what is right and follow this through to the bitter end, that this development, has not already gone through. The most recent decision to refuse planning permission for this abomination has confirmed and endorsed our reasons why this proposed anaerobic digestion plant should not go ahead.

We, as a family, who reside very close to the proposed site, are distressed at the unprecedented size and scale of the facility. Millions of tonnes of waste will be transported to the site, on an annual basis. The catchment area, from which this waste will be drawn, flies in the face of Ireland's own waste management policy. This should be, as far as possible, to treat waste at source, so not to add to Ireland's emissions through transporting this waste many miles from source.

We wish to re-iterate the grounds again behind the initial planning refusal, as they encapsulate some of the reasons why this anaerobic digestion plant should not go ahead:

1. The proposed development consists of a number of industrial type buildings with a total floor area of 30,000 m<sup>2</sup> and a height of up to 40.3m. The development would, therefore, result in the creation of very large non-agricultural structures in an open rural landscape and would therefore be contrary to the existing character of the area and would also result in unacceptable visual impacts on a number of existing nearby residences; would seriously injure the residential amenities of adjoining properties and depreciate the value of adjoining properties. The proposed development would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.
2. The proposal, as submitted, has not adequately considered the assessment and evaluation of possible alternative sites. This application is, therefore, considered premature pending the completion of a rigorous selection process.
3. The proposed development would, given its location, scale, bulk and the lack of adequate natural screening, be unduly obtrusive on the landscape when viewed from Scenic Route A3, as designated in the County Development Plan, would be out of character with and seriously detract from the scenic amenities of the area and would interfere with a view of special interest which it is necessary to preserve.

We would like to thank you for taking the time to read this submission. We sincerely hope the common sense and justice will prevail and the granting of a waste license to Bioverda to operate in Araglen, will not be countenanced.

Yours sincerely,

Valerie Rice

Valerie Rice, on behalf of Maurice, Mary, Mairead and John Rice