

11 December 2008

EPA HEADQUARTERS  
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JOHNSTOWN CASTLE ESTATE  
CO. WEXFORD

Environmental  
Protection Agency

12 DEC 2008

REF: Waste Licence Application W0252-01  
BUCHPA Limited  
Kilmartin, Coynes Cross, Newcastle Co. Wicklow

To Whom It May Concern,  
We would like to make an objection to the above proposed development based on the following observations.

#### Nature of the Development

The applicants call this development 'Restoration of Lands', and classify the type of Waste Activity under the Fourth Schedule as a Waste Recovery Activity. Specifically they say  
Class 2. Recycling or Reclamation of Organic Substances  
Class 4. Recycling or Reclamation of Inorganic Substances  
Class 10. The treatment of any waste on land with a consequential benefit for an agricultural activity or ecological system.

This is most definitely **not** restoration but **LANDFILLING** on a massive scale. This valley has been part of the natural landscape since the ICE Age! The developers are planning to 'Fill In' this valley. The 23 ha have been successfully farmed on for years. There is no proposed treatment of any of the waste coming in only to dispose of it in the Valley.

The Activity should be classified as a Waste Disposal Activity, specifically Class 1. Deposit on, in or under land (including landfill)

#### Waste Permit

The Environment Section of WCC granted a Waste Permit to the developers at the site for the purpose of 'a consequential benefit for agricultural activity' on the basis that the land was waterlogged at the base of the valley. This permit allowed for the importation of 'clay and soil' material to a level of 1.5m above the existing base level. When this permit has expired on January 2010 the benefit for agricultural activity will have been attained. There will be no need to landfill to an additional 28 and ½ metres to address a water logging problem at the base.

#### Contrary to National Waste Policy and the Waste Management Plan for County Wicklow

The National Waste Policy document 'Changing Our Ways' and subsequent national waste policy documents have set waste targets that have been incorporated in the current Waste Management Plan for County Wicklow. Specifically the target in relation to construction and demolition (C&D) waste is to **RECYCLE** at least 85% of C&D waste by 2013 **not landfill** it as these developers are proposing to do. There are a number of companies already embarking on recycling of C&D waste and correctly recovering these materials for use in road construction and landscaping.

The Waste Management Plan for County Wicklow specifically states that the County Council will **RECYCLE** 50 % of C&D waste within a 5 year period. To allow such waste to be **LANDFILLED** will be contrary to the Waste Plan.

#### Need for the Landfill

In refusing Planning Permission, Wicklow County Council correctly informed the developers that there was not a need for such an enormous landfill facility in County Wicklow. In attempting to make a case for the need for this landfill, the developers refer to the Waste Plan for County Wicklow and Waste Arisings from County Wicklow from 2004 stating 500,000

produced in County Wicklow. This is completely inaccurate as this figure is based on Collection Permit AERs and more accurately indicates the volume of C&D waste **COLLECTED** by Waste Collectors from the county, but is mostly C&D waste from the Dublin region during the construction boom years.

In addition the Collection Permits are required on major road works where material is 'moved around' and within the boundaries of the road land take. The AERs can thus be distorted and misinterpreted as C&D material requiring disposal when it has just been re used else where on the site. It is this type of reuse that should happen 85% of C&D waste produced. It should not be used to landfill a natural valley.

The developers have stated that their landfill is for a catchment of waste stretching from South Dublin to north Wexford. The vast majority of their waste arisings will not be from Wicklow, but from outside the county.

### **Current Capacity in Co. Wicklow**

The Environmental Services Section of Wicklow County Council have confirmed that there are currently 15 Waste Permits in the county and there are a further 8 Waste Permits pending which should adequately serve the actual C&D waste arisings for County Wicklow. These permits requesting total tonnages of less than 100,000 tonnes reflect the nature of the small scale C&D arisings for County Wicklow.

There are many locations in Co. Wicklow where vast voids have been created due to past and current mineral, rock and aggregate extraction activities. Most of these eye-sore sites are close to the main access routes of the N11 and N81 and are much more suitable to the disposal of the type of C&D waste proposed by the developers which will largely come from the Dublin area.

### **Scale of the Development**

There is a lot of confusion in the application as to just how much waste the developer is proposing to dispose of at the site. Their submission to an Bord Pleanála says a total importation of 3,400,000 tonnes. Yet on table H1 (c) of the Waste Licence Application they show 1,134,000 tonnes per annum up to at least year 2013, which is 5 years and a total of 5,670,000 tonnes to be imported. The EIS says total tonnage of 4,230,000 tonnes.

Whatever the accurate figure, this is landfilling on an enormous scale, filling a natural valley by up to 30m deep with C&D waste and raising the ground level above the existing road levels by **10m**. The applicant has requested permission for 250 truck loads per day equating to a truck turnaround every **2 and ½ minutes**. This represents a serious Health and Safety issue both at the site and along the roads leading to the site. It is more realistic that the truck movements per day will result in a life span of the Landfill closer to **15 to 20 years**.

### **Hours of Operation**

No consideration is given by the developers to the fact that the majority of the local residents are in the area for most of the day. The operating hours of 7:30am to 7:30pm effectively means that the community will be exposed to noise, odours, dirt and dust for 12 hours per day. This is unacceptable for people who have experienced major inconvenience during the construction of the upgraded N11.

### **Competency to Operate**

In Attachment C, Management of the Facility, of the Waste Licence Application there appears to be 5 people who will run this landfill. One Director is an estate agent, another is an administrator of what we are not told, the third director is a farmer and then there is a road sweeping machine operator and a bulldozer operator. How can any of these 5 people have the competency to fulfill a Waste Acceptance procedure?

The applicants also state that there have been no complaints in relation to their current Waste Permit. This is untrue. The undersigned have made many complaints to Wicklow County Council in relation to the state of the road in terms of dust and dirt and being held up on the road due to poor sight distances because of the back up of lorries waiting to enter the facility. This will be much worse if the applicants are successful in the importation of millions of tonnes of material.

**Road safety hazard**

The proposed access to the site is on a school bus route and the route taken by parents of children to a number of schools in the area. The operating hours and the volume of waste carrying trucks will present a major road hazard to families in the area.

**Visual impact**

There is no consideration in the EIS to the visual impact of such a waste disposal facility. The site is bounded on the East by a rural walkway that is a valuable amenity for local people walking in the area. The view towards Wicklow Head will have a significant negative impact as a result of this landfill. There is no mention in the EIS that the development will result in a visual intrusion of **10m above the existing road level**, as indicated in Cross Section AA of their drawing of Cross Sections through the Infill.

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