

Sub B

EPA Headquarters
PO Box 3000
Johnstown Castle Estate
Co. Wexford

Sir/Madam

RE: Proposed development by Oxygen at Corranure landfill including biological treatment facility

Recent public meetings held in my community have raised increasing concerns amongst residents of Cavan town and its environs about the application plans submitted by privateers Oxygen Ltd to your authority, to grant Oxygen licence to redevelop the landfill site at Corranure. These plans include the processing of biological waste on a mass scale at a specialised facility, in close proximity to the town.

Cavan County Council has only very recently handed over majority control of Corranure Landfill to this private company and I am abhorred at the idea Oxygen are now seeking to transform the site into one, if not the, largest facilities for disposing off landfill and treatment of biological waste in Ireland.

It is beyond me why a local authority would allow waste to be continued to be disposed off by landfill in a dump on the doorstep of the principal town in the County. To then allow a profit-driven, private company to seize ownership of the bulk of the operations at the facility who in turn (and within a very short space of having acquired same) seek to vastly expand the landfill site and introducing untried and potentially hazardous methods of waste disposal, defies simple logic to me and my fellow residents.

Not one local resident's wishes or anxieties, as far as I am concerned, were addressed by Cavan County Council prior to their decision to hand over operations to Oxygen. It is disheartening to see that once again, the local authority in the County is effectively 'steam-rolling' over local alarm about these plans by Oxygen and the unwavering support they (Oxygen) now enjoy from the Council in their plans.

For many years, Cavan County Council has allowed terrible odours to emit from this landfill site and to this day, the problem has never been fully resolved, even by the site's new occupier. The Council claimed that the problem has been resolved but the same smells have materialised in a new landfill cell operated by Oxygen. The dangers posed by seepage from landfill into water systems are also well known and with increased levels of methane emitted by the landfill in the atmosphere, there are significant risk to residents and perhaps, generations to come.

Why then would the EPA consider application by Oxygen to vastly expand its operations in spite of continual breaches by Oxygen of its landfill-licence, for example the placement of waste into supposed 'non-operational' cell 3A at the site? What other breaches exist that are not in the public domain?

It is regrettable that this is the situation the people of Cavan now face, following the questionable decisions made by their local government, who are clearly out of touch and do not represent the will of the townfolk.

I ask you therefore to consider the contents of this letter representative of the growing and increasingly frustrated view, held by local residents who are left without any recourse by some key public representatives to prevent the expansion by Oxygen, notwithstanding that the site at Corranure should have been decommissioned many years ago in the interests of public health for the residents of Cavan town.

Sincerely,

Ryan Knecht