



Matthew Smith,
Unshinagh,
Ballyhaise,
Co. Cavan.

02/01/09

Application by Oxigen Environmental Ltd., for a Licence to operate an Integrated Waste Management Facility at Lismagratty and Corranure Townlands, Cotehill Road, Cavan, Co. Cavan.

Ref: WO248/01.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I refer to the above application for a waste licence and would wish to object to the granting of it on the following grounds:

As a resident in the immediate area of the proposal, I am very concerned on the implications such a facility would have on health. Nobody can say what chemical reactions take place in landfill, what gases are produced or what effect these gases have on people's health. There is no proof available to show that the facility is not harmful to health. You cannot assume that this facility is not having adverse effects on people's health. On numerous occasions, I have felt nausea and have suffered headaches from the odour emanating from the present facility.

The existing landfill and the proposed facility is to cover an expansive area. This area will take in various kinds of waste and land filled. I feel that there is a danger that parts of this waste could segregate down through the earth's surface and pollute underground waterways and wells where many residents including myself rely on for a source of natural water for drinking and domestic purposes. Again there is no proof that this will not be effected or if has been already by the present facility.

It has been accepted in the EPA's own reports, that pollution and bad management of the present facility are normal practice and indeed Cavan County Council have already been prosecuted successfully for breaches of the existing licence. Oxigen have repeatedly broken the existing licence on a number of different issues. I would therefore contend that the present facility should be closed and no new licence should be granted for expansion of activities on this site.

I have concerns about the manner of disposal of lechiate from the present facility and the manner by which it is transported to the sewerage treatment works. I also question the ability of the local sewerage treatment works to deal with lechiate and whether the sewerage treatment works were designed to treat this lechiate.

If this licence is granted, it will extend the live of the present site and create untold problems for local residents and visitors to the area. The suffering that people have already experienced from the present facility will undoubtedly be increased in the future.

I believe that the proposed site for such a facility is inappropriately located. The site is in close proximity to a large town, two villages and many rural houses. The present facility has a huge adverse effect on the people in these areas. The value of property in the area has been adversely affected by the present facility. Granting this licence will further devalue property in the area.

The way in which the present facility has affected people lives is totally unacceptable. The windows in my house cannot be opened due to bad odours. Clothes cannot be hung out to dry because they come in smelling foul. I have been woken at night because of the gaseous smell. I've had friends and family stay with me and they have remarked on the "bad smell" in the area. Nowadays I'm embarrassed to invite people to my home. I'm going to place great emphasis on the word "home". This is where I was raised, where a lot of my family reside and where I hope to spend the rest of my life. I do not want my home being polluted any more and this should take place with immediate effect.

I thank you for your time in reading this submission and ask you take its content into account and consider all the genuine concerns before arriving at a decision on this application for a licence.

Yours Faithfully

Matthew Smith

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