

Antiduff,  
Ballyhaise,  
County Cavan.  
049-4338582

6<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2009

Environmental Protection Agency,  
Office of Climate,  
Licensing & Resource Use,  
P.O. Box 3000,  
Johnstown Castle Estate,  
Co. Wexford.

**Re: Application by Oxigen Environmental Ltd., For a Licence to operate an Integrated Waste Management Facility at Lismagratty and Corranure Townlands, Cootehill Road, Cavan. Co. Cavan.**

**Your Reference: WO248/08**

To whom it may concern,

I wish to make the following submission in regard to the proposed Integrated Waste Management facility mentioned above. As a resident in the immediate area of the proposed facility and a parent of 2 children, I feel it my duty to not only my children, but also to the entire community, to strongly object to this proposal. My main areas of concern and points of objection are set out below;

1.  
The location for this proposed facility is totally inappropriate as it is situated approximately 2 miles from Cavan, a busy urban town. As such it will have a huge negative impact of schools, hospitals, crèches, and businesses alike. It is also close to two villages ( including Ballyhaise where we live), and many rural houses, on which the existing facility has an enormous adverse effect. The thoughts of this facility expanding even further is nothing less than terrifying to me and my family.

Ballyhaise in County Cavan is 4 miles from Cavan town. Myself and my husband moved here from Galway in 1998 as my husband got a job here as an engineer. I also work locally as a teacher. We moved with our two small children, then aged 3 and 1. While looking for a house here we quickly ruled out the Corratubber area and houses located close to the "dump" as it was and still is called because of the bad smell around it. We chose Ballyhaise as we felt it was far enough away from this dump and an idyllic rural location, a small village with beautiful natural surroundings.

Cavan town is a busy business town but I know people are avoiding it now because of the unbearable smell. This of course will effect not only local trade but also dissuade people coming in to establish businesses. People will leave, not attempt to stay. It simply defies logic that this proposal is in an area zoned by Cavan County Council.

2.

On a personal level it is totally unbelievable that this same "dump" is now impinging on us in a way that we never thought possible. Over the past few years the smell from that site has become more and more unbearable. The odour is like a noxious gas, rotten eggs and methane all rolled into one. On days when it is particularly pungent we are literally housebound. We cannot open a window, not to mind go outside, the smell is so completely oppressive and repulsive. The children cannot play in comfort. The quality of our lives here in our own home has been lessened. We plan barbeques in the summertime very tentatively and we think twice about inviting friends over if it is frosty, foggy, damp or warm! What was once our sanctuary is at times now a prison. On some occasions even though the windows are closed the smell simply seeps through the walls and there is no escape from it. I feel very depressed about this, so much so that we are considering selling our once dream house. However, that brings about another problem. Who would even consider buying a house so effected by this pollution? The value of our home is without doubt much depleted because of the smell coming from the landfill. I have filed complaints with the Epa on several occasions, both over the phone and through e-mail and continue to do so in the hope that this intolerable situation can end.

3.

I am truly concerned about the health of my family. No one can know for sure what chemical reactions take place in a landfill, what gases are produced, in which direction the wind will blow on a particular day or indeed where lechiate contaminant measures may fail. All of these may well affect the health of the local people, not least the children who reside with their parents in the houses in the immediate area. While I admit that there are studies out there that say there is little risk in living next to a landfill site, there are many more reports that say that it does adversely affect health. You only have to Google the word landfill! We cannot assume "no risk" until definite proof is available that absolutely no risk exists at all.

I know for a fact that in Ballyhaise alone we have had a large "pocket" of people get cancer, many of whom have died. It is a disproportionate amount of people in comparison to other areas. I myself was pregnant in 2001 but developed trophoblastics disease and ended up on chemotherapy for 4 months. The pregnancy was terminated and I was very sick for a year afterwards. Nobody knows why this disease occurs or what causes it, but like many people in this area who have been sick, I wonder about the landfill site. No one knew the risks of Asbestos until many people had died.

4.

The value of property in this area has been adversely affected by the present facility but granting of this licence will compound this and further devalue property. This is property which the owners should have an expectation of reasonable open market value and should be able to live in without difficulty. The local Authority, in expanding the zoned area around the existing landfill site, did not take due account of its impact on local residents and by not doing so, contravened the very principles on which their own development plan are based.

It has been accepted in the Agency's own reports, that pollution and mad management of the present facility are normal practice and indeed Cavan County Council have

already been prosecuted successfully for breaches of the existing licence. 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.

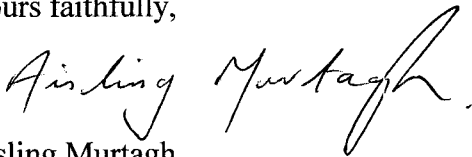
5.

I also question the manner of disposal of lechiate from the present facility and the manner by which same is conveyed to the sewerage treatment works. I also question the ability of the local sewerage works to deal with lechiate and whether the sewerage treatment works was designed to treat this lechiate.

While I do agree with recycling and the principles around an MBT plant, I do not believe that the site at Corranure is an appropriate one, nor is it being run efficiently.

For all the above reasons I call on the Agency to refuse the application for a licence in this matter and to press for the closure of the present facility.

Yours faithfully,



Aisling Murtagh

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