

W0248-a

Sub (45)

The EPA
PO Box 3000
Johnstown Castle Estate
Co. Wexford

Environmental Protection
Agency
16 JAN 2009

January 8th 2009

Re; Application by Oxigen for a license to operate an integrated waste management facility at Lismagraty & Corranure town lands, Coothill road. Cavan.

Your ref; wo248/01

Dear Sir,

I wish to object in the strongest possible terms to the granting of the above application by Oxigen.

My family and I moved to Cavan town in August 2006. Soon afterwards I had to engage a plumber as we thought we had a leak or something rotting away somewhere as the smell was really bad in the house, particularly at weekends. We had tiles removed, floorboards taken up, sinks taken from walls in the bathrooms etc. only to be told on the third visit - this time by a local plumber - that the smell was nothing to do with the house, but came from the dump. Never having been to Cavan before buying our house, it was rather a shock to find that everyone knew about these terrible odours which seemed to become worse in cold weather, yet nothing was being done about them.

This continues to be the case, despite much public disquiet and disgust at the many blatant and frequent breaches of the license already granted and the apparent willingness of the Council to overlook them. As the Councillors have admitted - publicly - to not having read your reports, it seems amazing that they will be now in a position of authority in regard to planning permission for the MBT facility if this application is granted, yet not taking any responsibility for it. These same councillors who were 'terribly embarrassed' by causing a fish kill last year show no signs of embarrassment concerning the residents who have no option but to suffer the consequences of bad management and wrong decisions.

Since moving here, many days - weekends in particular - have been completely ruined by these smells.

We often know from the night before if we will have to go away on the following day - I have frequently rung the EPA on Sat. mornings, to inform you that - yet again - we have to get out to avoid the pong. Coming back from Dublin on Sunday evenings, one is often met on the by-pass with the stench. As a resource teacher, I was teaching in Drumcrave, where the children did not want to go out at break-time because the smell was so bad. This was reported to Mr. Reynolds.

Having moved here, I was looking forward to having my family here, yet on one infamous Sunday last year I rang my siblings and re-arranged the visit in my sister's house in Tullamore, packing dinner for 14 in tinfoil, cling-film etc. in the boot of the car, as the noxious smell was appalling here and we could not have countenanced eating here – inside or outside. No number of Yankee candles can get rid of the smell inside – Surely we are entitled to some sort of air quality in our own homes?

Our daughter trains with the Irish rowing team. Running near our house, she needed her inhaler – which is banned during the competitive season. I fully realize that this may not be attributed in its entirety to the landfill, nor can the cancer clusters in Ballyhaise etc. etc., but lack of medical evidence should not be discounted. There are sufficient reports which are widely available on the detrimental effects of air-borne toxins that should be taken into consideration, although Oxigen have no knowledge of any of these. I asked their representatives (November 08 – meeting with Cavan Better Waste / Oxigen / Co. Co./in the Cavan Crystal Hotel) if they might undertake such a study in the area and they replied that they were not aware of any dangers, any such reports or any evidence that landfills were injurious to a person's health.

Should a license be granted to a company which has such obvious disregard for the community and apparent ignorance of the valid health concerns held by many?

The proposal for the MBT plant is incredible, when they have not shown themselves capable of running an 'ordinary' landfill.

You – as the experts – are aware of the enormous difference between recycling paper products and recycling meat and waste – and the dangers involved. If Oxigen can't operate the land fill properly – why would anybody allow them to practice on a much larger scale – and new to Oxigen - when the effect could actually be even worse?

It has also been highlighted recently that MBT plants do not destroy contaminants, so it is of the utmost importance to get the right people to make the correct decisions regarding waste management.

I request that the guidelines, as suggested by yourselves, the EPA, should be upheld and that when the present license for Corranure expires, that the landfill should be closed.

With the expansion of the town, it is morally wrong to expose so many people / schools/nursing homes etc. to the possible - and known - dangers of a huge landfill, particularly when the people asking for permission have proved themselves totally incapable of doing so, and those involved in the decision making process have a vested financial interest i.e. Cavan County Council.

Yours sincerely


Dr. A.N. Bennett