

Environmental Protection
Agency

27 FEB 2009

25th February 2009

RH/SB/

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

Rory Hayden
Cullies
Cavan
Co. Cavan

RE: Application by Oxigen Environmental Ltd, for a licence to operate an Integrated Waste Management Facility at Lismagraty and Corranure Townlands, Cavan, Co. Cavan.
Your Ref: W0248/01

Dear Sirs

We refer to the above application and now wish to make the following objection to the granting of the above for the following reasons:-

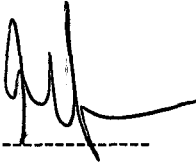
1. The location for the proposed facility is inappropriate given that it is in close proximity to the county town, two villages, large number of residential houses and agricultural farms. There are a number of family homes located within 500m of the facility. The proposed site for the facility and future expansions is wholly unsuitable for the above reasons. It is on a major approach road to the county town in a prime location.
2. The existing facility is located in close proximity to a number of historical forts. Previous excavations (to facilitate the landfill) have been carried out in close proximity to one of these historical forts (located some 60m north east of the proposed development). This ring fort is in serious danger, given that previous damage has occurred to the grounds surrounding it. The fort dates to around 500 to 1000 AD. It is vital that this fort and its surroundings be protected so that future generations can understand and appreciate our past.
3. Access to the facility is unsuitable given the proposed increase of HGV vehicles which will be attending the facility. The increased daily number of HGV's and other vehicles attending the facility is of huge concern. At present the Cavan/Cootehill road is heavily used with trucks accessing the facility, however given the proposed increase in vehicles this will create traffic issues and potential health and safety hazards. At present there are congestion problems along the Cootehill road and given the proposed increased traffic volume this can only lead to further problems.

4. The existing Cootehill road leading to the Landfill is presented in poor condition with sections of the road subsiding, previous flooding on the road and increased levels of dirt, rubbish and grease evident on the road surface and verges. This is directly related to the heavy volumes of landfill trucks using the road.
5. The local residents and people from the surrounding areas (including Cavan Town) have suffered greatly as a result of landfill odours, which have been as a result of mismanagement at the facility. This has greatly affected the local residents, including our own family. This has been the case for a long number of years even when it was an open dump. Surely it is time a more appropriate venue is considered.
6. The ongoing odours have affected our lifestyle in a number of ways. When the smell is strong we have no option but to stay indoors where possible and ensure that all windows are closed to reduce the possibility of the smell entering the house. We are unable to leave clothes out on the line to dry as they would smell thereafter. During summer evenings we are unable to enjoy outdoor activities despite maintaining large gardens. Socially it is embarrassing and impractical to invite visitors to our home due to the possibility of them experiencing the landfill odours. Visitors often comment on the smell.
7. The value of our property has been greatly reduced due to the mismanagement of the landfill facility and its location close to the urban residential area of Cavan town.
8. The problem with landfill odours has been continuous for some months/years, which has resulted in numerous breaches of the EPA Licence for the facility. The EPA has advised that the landfill odours are as a result of poor management at the facility. Promises and assurances are given but the problems always relapse in our experience.
9. The design of the proposed recycling sheds are of an extremely large scale and given the proposed height for these structures 18m (circa 59 feet), they will be out of character with their surroundings and will be visually obtrusive from the public road and surroundings. The drawings attached to the application illustrate limited information, with no overall building lengths shown on drawing no. 14, while there is no north point shown on this drawing either. The drawings are lacking in specification and information. Given the sheer scale and mass of these buildings, the overall design is unsuitable and not in accordance with good and proper planning for the area.
10. The site layout plan (drawing no. 12) for the development illustrates limited information with no dimensions etc. shown. The drawings attached with the application appear incomplete and I am unable to fully review the proposal.
11. The ongoing pollution arising from the existing facility at present is totally unacceptable. This has been highlighted in the EPA's interim inspection reports of the landfill and the County Council have been previously prosecuted for their breaches of the existing licence. The present and previous operators of the landfill have been unable to operate the facility in accordance with the licence requirements. Therefore the facility should be permanently closed, as it poses a serious health and safety risk.

12. I have serious concerns over the removal of the lechiate from the landfill (via tractor and tanker). Should an accident occur or the lechiate from the tanker on route leak it could contaminate the area and cause serious health risks to us.

We hereby request that the Environmental Protection Agency to refuse this application for a licence and work towards the closure of the landfill.

Yours faithfully



Rory Hayden

For inspection purposes only.
Consent of copyright owner required for any other use.