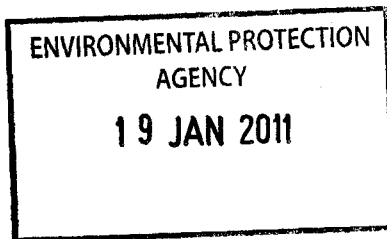


Cavan Better Waste Management Group  
c/o Peter Sexton  
Killygoan  
Cavan  
Co. Cavan



Environmental Protection Agency  
EPA Headquarters  
P.O. Box 3000  
Johnstown Castle Estate  
County Wexford

18<sup>th</sup> January 2010

**RE: Objection to Proposed Decision on Waste License Application W0077-04**

Dear Sir/Madam,

This submission has been prepared on behalf of the Cavan Better Waste Management Group, c/o Peter Sexton, Killygoan, Cavan, Co. Cavan.

We would like to put forward from the outset that the Cavan Better Waste Management (CBWM) Group welcome the Proposed Decision of the EPA to impose new and updated landfilling restrictions in the revised licence for Cavan County Council. However, CBWM contend that Cavan County Council have proven incapable of managing the facility at Corranure safely and competently, and should therefore be prohibited from continuing to operate the landfill.

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**Introduction**

The EPA is continuously receiving complaints from the general public about odour problems in the area surrounding Corranure landfill. We feel that the odour monitoring at the facility is completely inadequate and the systems in place have failed on numerous occasions, causing considerable annoyance and discomfort to local residents, schools etc. To this end we feel that the licencees and operators cannot operate the facility competently and therefore it should be closed permanently.

The problem with gas odours at off-site locations has been ongoing for some years now. Cavan County Council have been prosecuted by the district court twice, in 2005 and 2007, in relation to breaches of the waste licence for Corranure landfill. Subsequently in recent years, the EPA in its site inspection reports has continuously identified the poor treatment of waste at the site as the primary cause of off-site odour. The operators and licencees of the facility have failed to resolve the problem with off-site odours continuing to arise from the landfill. We therefore request that the EPA refuse the granting of a waste licence to Cavan County Council for the operation of the facility at Corranure.

However, should the EPA decide to adopt the Proposed Decision, we respectfully put forward the following points for the consideration of the Board:

## **1.0 Management of the Facility**

As noted in our previous submission, and in the EPA Addendum Inspectors Report, the poor history of compliance and inability of the operators (both Cavan County Council and Oxigen Environmental Ltd.) to control odour emissions has been linked to the failure of Cavan County Council to retain an experienced landfill manager at the facility.

We acknowledge that the Proposed Decision directs that an experienced facility manager be appointed (Condition 2.1.1). However, given the significant number of Conditions in the Proposed Decision and the poor history of compliance by the licencees, we propose that that in addition to the landfill manager, an EPA Inspector should be employed on a full-time basis at the site in order to ensure that the local environment does not continue to suffer from the numerous violations which have been so prevalent in the past. The cost of the EPA Inspector should be borne by the licence holders until such time as the EPA are satisfied that the facility is properly managed and that all applicable Directives and Regulations are being fully adhered to.

We support the EPA's stance (under Waste Licence Application W0248-01) that allowing the landfill to operate under two licences would create difficulty in enforcing licence conditions. Both the licencees (Cavan County Council) and the operators (Oxigen Environmental Ltd.) of the facility have a poor history of compliance with respect to excessive and unacceptable odour emissions from the facility. The impossibility of proving the source of harmful emissions could result in considerable legal complications in relation to supervision of the facility and enforcement of conditions. Therefore, should the EPA decide to adopt the Proposed Decision, we support the decision to retain a sole licence holder for the entire facility.

Condition 2.1.3 states that *"the Civic Waste Facility shall be supervised by an appropriately qualified and competent person at all times while waste is accepted"*. We would request that the appropriate qualifications and experience be stated in writing in order to ensure that there is no ambiguity.

## **2.0 Infrastructure and Operation**

We welcome the proposal by the EPA to limit the depth of waste in cell 4 to 15 metres, and we also support the decision to limit waste intake to 45,000 tonnes per annum. However, it still must be noted that even at these reduced levels, question marks remain over the ability of Cavan County Council to operate the landfill facility safely. Given the history of uncontrolled odour emissions during filling of earlier cells, we request that the EPA refuse to grant a waste licence to Cavan County Council for the operation of cell 4. Cavan County Council have repeatedly violated the conditions of previous waste licences, and without the presence of a full-time EPA Inspector on-site, there is little to prevent these violations reoccurring during the filling of cell 4.

## **3.0 Resource Use & Energy Efficiency**

While we welcome the direction of the EPA to carry out repeated Energy Efficiency Audits (Condition 7.1), we request that an independent consultant be appointed in order to carry out an audit of the energy efficiency of the site. This will ensure that the audit is undertaken professionally in accordance with relevant guidelines and will ensure that the process is carried out in an unbiased, transparent manner.

#### **4.0 Compliance with Section 53 of the Waste Management Act 1996**

We note the requirements of Section 53 of the Act and we believe they are very important in relation to Corranure Landfill. Furthermore, we are concerned with the long-term implications of the life span of this landfill. It has already been in operation since the 1970's. As the board is aware the costs associated with maintaining a landfill site even when it stops accepting waste could be up to thirty years. Given that the board proposes to allow continuation of landfill at this site we ask that the board review what funds have been set aside by Cavan County Council for the maintenance of this site. What if any security/bond is in place and is the income that the council receives from the operators of the site Oxigen Environmental Ltd, being ring-fenced to ensure adequate funds are in place for ongoing maintenance of the site.

#### **Conclusion**

We trust that the Agency will have regard to this submission when finalising the Proposed Decision and will examine the particular points of concern raised on behalf of the Cavan Better Waste Management Group.

We would be grateful for written acknowledgement of this submission in due course and ask that all future correspondence regarding same be sent to Cavan Better Waste Management Group, c/o Peter Sexton, Killygoan, Cavan Co. Cavan.

Yours Faithfully,



Peter Sexton  
Cavan Better Waste Management Group

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