



19.01.05

RE: Illegal Landfill at Roadstone Dublin Ltd.

To Dr. Mary Kelly,

I am writing to you to request clarification on a few points relating to Roadstones application for a waste removal licence for their lands in Blessington. If you could please clarify the follow:

1. What exactly licence is Roadstone seeking and what will the licence entitle Roadstone to carry out. Is it a licence for once-off waste removal or is to operate a landfill on this site indefinitely.
2. Is there any time restrictions associated with the licence they are seeking.
3. Does the EPA not consider the proposed site to be situated too near to a residential area and the fact that it is on top of the Blessington Aquifer as reasons this landfill should be rejected.
4. As nobody can be sure of the total number of illegal dumps in Wicklow. Do you not think giving a landfill licence is a very bad precedent to start. And does nothing to stop people from continuing this practice, rather it would encourage it as there is huge gains to be made from having your own landfill.

Just on point 4, I would like to add that although Roadstone have said they will never seek to use this facility as a commercial landfill. The feeling we have in the area is that this practice amounts to giving someone a loaded gun and waiting for them to go for the trigger before we try and stop them. Based on Roadstones history, this is not the safest option for Blessington. I refer to their treatment of Glen Ding Wood among other things.

Also, if Roadstone were to remove all waste off-site, as requested by the residents, it would amount to a once-off expense. Admittedly a lot of money, however, what they suggest will cost them more in the long-term. They will have to pay the initial construction costs of the facility, and then on-going costs of insurance, ESB, security, salaries, up-keep of the building, to name a few. And this is all for a building they never intend to make use of!

And also, this building, which will never be used, will sit on their lands and will hinder any future development of this site. This does not make commercial sense and questions need to be asked of Roadstone as to why they prefer this option. They would have the money to remove all waste, they made 1 billion euro last year.

As you can imagine there are a lot of worried residents in Blessington and we are trying to get a complete picture. We are not getting any feedback from the Blessington Forum regarding this matter so we would like to get our answers from you direct.

Yours sincerely

Representing the Residents of Burgage Manor

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