

Fiacra O Cinneide
Sillogue House,
Sillogue,
Navan,
Co. Meath.

EPA,
Environmental Licensing Programme,
PO Box 3000
Johnstown Castle Estate,
Co. Wexford

21/08/2017

Reference; Licence Number P0516-04

Dear Sir / Madam,

I wish to object to the application by Tara Mines for a renewal of its IPC Licence.

In 1996 Tara Mines applied for planning permission to rise their Tailings Dump and deepen their Interceptor Channel, and at the same time reverse the seepage flow from the Tailings Dump. This was outlined in their planning application P96/919.

However since then the situation has dis-improved, with massive increase in Sulphate levels to the south of the Tailings Dump, in the direction of the River Blackwater (SAC).

40% of the levels sampled are over the threshold level of 187.5mg/l, the OB Well, OB20, furthest from the Tailings Dump and closest to the River Blackwater has a maximum level of 1626 mg/l.

Other wells show maximum levels greater than this, OB16 1732mg/l, OB15 2278mg/l, OB5 2625mg/l.

The Tailings Dump is leaking and so has failed in its ability to operate with out damage to the environment.

This seepage would have to be stopped prior to permission being given for renewal its IPC licence.

Of the list of 41 boreholes, of which **35 show increased levels of Sulphate** since sampling commenced. It is safe to say that the leakage from the Tailing Dump is increasing. From data complied from the borehole sampling, its a fact that seepage is still leaking from the Tailings Dump, **Is this not a Failure** of its licence !!!
(At what levels of seepage do the EPA consider that the tailings dump is leaking. ?)

Having regard to your,

EPA "Guidance on the Authorisation of Discharges to Groundwater"

2.1 'Prevent or Limit' Objective

The 'limit' objective relates to non-hazardous substances, whereby all necessary measures should be taken to limit inputs into groundwater to ensure that such inputs do not cause deterioration in status of groundwater bodies, or a significant and sustained upward trends in groundwater concentrations.

2.3 Significant and Sustained Upward Trends

Procedures for assessment of trends and trend reversal are outlined in Schedule 8 of the Groundwater Regulations and are included in a methodology published by the EPA (2010b). + In addition to the trend assessment of groundwater bodies, Regulation 56 of the Groundwater Regulations also requires that trends assessments be carried out on plumes resulting from known point sources and contaminated land.

This is to monitor and verify that plumes from known sources do not expand, do not cause deterioration in the chemical status of the groundwater body, and do not present a risk to human health and the environment.

Schedule 8, Identification and reversal of significant and sustained upward trends;

- 2.ii)** *enable such upward trends to be identified in sufficient time to allow measures to be implemented in order to prevent, or at least mitigate as far as practicable, environmentally significant detrimental changes in groundwater quality.*

The consistent increase of the levels of sulphate, indicates that Tara Mines are not complying with **Condition 6.17** of Licence number P0516-03, and as such their application for a new licence should be refused.

Tara Mines Tailings Dump is leaking into the local groundwater and may as indications show pollutant the river Blackwater. This should not be permitted or licenced by the EPA, as we the people of Navan rely and trust the EPA so protect our environment.

Yours Sincerely,

Fiacra O Cinneide. BSc (Hons) Env

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Liz Leacy

Subject: FW: submission to IPC P0516-04
Attachments: EPA IPC P0516-04 Objection Letter.odt

From: Wexford Receptionist
Sent: 23 August 2017 10:52
To: Licensing Staff <licensing@epa.ie>
Subject: FW: submission to IPC P0516-04

Hi,

Please see correspondence below that was received through info@epa.ie Thanks.

Kind regards

*Maria Harney
Duty Receptionist/Programme Officer
Environmental Protection Agency
P.O. Box 3000
Johnstown Castle Estate
Wexford
Y35 W821*

Bosca Poist 3000, Eastát Chaisleán Bhaile Sheáin, Contae Loch Garman.

*Tel: 00353 53 91 60600: Fax: 00353 53 91 60699: Email: info@epa.ie web: www.epa.ie
Lo Call: 1890 33 55 99*

Environmental Protection Agency on Twitter:

<http://twitter.com/EPAIreland>

EPA Climate Change on Twitter:

<http://twitter.com/EPAClimateNews>

EPA Research on Twitter:

<http://twitter.com/EPAResearchNews>

YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/epaireland>

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From: Fiacra O Cinneide [redacted]
Sent: 22 August 2017 23:14
To: Wexford Receptionist <REC_WEX@epa.ie>
Subject: submission to IPC P0516-04

I wish to make a submission to IPC P0516-04
Fiacra O Cinneide



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