



Submission

Submitter:	Mrs Bernie Collins
Organisation Name:	Drumgossatt & Knocknacran Residents
Submission Title:	Issues regarding licence
Submission Reference No.:	S005915
Submission Received:	24 December 2019

Application

Applicant:	Saint-Gobain Construction Products (Ireland) Limited
Reg. No.:	P0519-04

See below for Submission details.

Attachments are displayed on the following page(s).

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Drumgossatt Knocknacran Residents Group

Email: drumgossattknocknacranresident@gmail.com

23rd December 2019

Re: Review of existing Industrial Emissions Licence (IEL) No. P0519-03 for Saint-Gobain Construction Products (Ireland) Limited

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing concerning the review of the existing Industrial Emissions Licence (IEL) No. P0519-03 for Saint-Gobain Construction Products (Ireland) Limited which is being processed at the moment.

Our residents group have been meeting with the EPA representative Pat Byrne, as part of the Drumgossatt-Knocknacran Residents Stakeholder Forum over the past 12 months. This forum is made up of Monaghan County Council Staff, Local Elected Representatives, Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment representatives and Gyproc (Ireland) Ltd.

During that period Pat Byrne has been reporting in the activates of the EPA in relation to the monitoring of the water discharge from the old Drumgossatt mine which was flooded in 2018, the water monitoring on the current mine into the River Bursk, the monitoring of air, dust and noise. During this time Gyproc have exceeded the permitted levels in their discharge into the Bursk and there is a court case in progress at the moment. We are very concerned that there are frequent breaches of the licence in relation to water quality and that this will cause long term damage to the rivers and water table in this area. We understand this application is to increase the compliance value of for Sulphate in the River Bursk to 1,250mg/l, we are concerned that this is a large increase from the existing limit value for Sulphate of 200mg/l. The river is an important source of drinking water in Tallenstown, used by farmers for livestock and is a valuable spawning/nursery habitat. The long term effect of this large increase may have a detrimental effect on the quality of the water, we ask that this should be scientifically investigated.

People who live close to the Gyproc mine have complained to our group, the EPA and the company about the effect mining has on the quality of their lives. The main issues appear to be dust levels, noise and the effect of blasting. In terms of dust, we are told that the company is in compliance, however we have grave doubts about the data collected as the primitive equipment used is not tamper proof and can't be verified independently. There are much more advanced dust monitoring devices and technologies available which we believe should be mandatory for the company to use and that the data should be made public.

Noise is also a problem, the traffic to and from the site up to 12 hours per day at certain times of the year can be very busy. Recent developments on the site have resulted in extra activity with heavy machinery working very close to residential homes. It seems that some of the sound barriers that were in place have been removed so now the noise and dust can be experienced by more people in the area. We ask that proper sound barriers should be put in place that eliminates the sound from inside the site affecting people living outside, trees be planted on the edge of the site and the times when trucks and coming and going to the site be reduced.

The effects of blasting is a serious problem for people living in the vicinity and for farm animals and we assume for wildlife. It has been reported that a shower door in one resident's bathroom shattered as a result of a recent blast, young children have been woken from their sleep and farm animals have been distressed. Again we have been told that the blasting is within the permitted levels, and while this may be the case it is having a negative effect. We ask that more sound proofing is put in place and any other improvements that could be implemented to stop the annoyance that is causing locally.

As climate change is such a big issue at the moment we believe the company should be taking action to counter the CO2 that their activity is emitting. There is a plan in place as part of the planning permission to close the site and return it to its natural state, however this could take years to happen. There are large areas of land that the company is finished mining and this should be made into a biodiversity area.

Yours sincerely,

Bernie Collins.

Chairperson Drumgossatt Knocknacran Residents Group.