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PHARMACHEMICAL IRELAND

Focused on a Healthy Future



14th December 2004

LETTER TO THE EDITOR- THE IRISH EXAMINER

Dear Sir,

PharmaChemical Ireland, the representative body for the pharmaceutical and chemical manufacturing industry in Ireland, part of the Irish Business and Employers Confederation (IBEC) has noted some correspondence in relation to your publication on the topic of the proposed hazardous waste treatment plant in Ringaskiddy Co. Cork. Specific reference is made to the industry in some of this correspondence and in particular its position with respect to the provision of waste management facilities on this island. It is appropriate that the actual policy of the industry in relation to this important national issue is clarified for the benefit of your readers.

First and foremost the pharmachem industry in Ireland remains committed to the strategy set down by the European Commission in relation to the disposal of all waste, - that waste is handled in accordance with the principle of the waste hierarchy. In simple terms this means that where possible, waste generated, either industrial or domestic is re-used or recycled. Where this is not possible or feasible, waste is disposed of in a safe and environmentally sound manner.

The industry has a good record in relation to the recycling of its waste, it recycles around 65 % of all the hazardous waste that it produces. This continues to be the preference for the industry, however as part of an overall integrated approach to waste management, the industry recognizes the need to have a range of options for safely disposing of waste that cannot be recycled. The industry has long disapproved of the current practice of exporting this waste overseas for treatment. In the industry's view this goes against the principle of proximity whereby a nation meets its own waste disposal needs locally. In order to achieve this the sector strongly endorses the Government's own stated policy of providing a National Waste Disposal facility as part of the country's overall waste management strategy. In fact the continued lack of such a facility can act as a disincentive to investors considering Ireland as a location for pharmaceutical manufacturing.

Therefore, to clarify the pharmachem sector's position with respect to waste management, it does support the establishment of a Hazardous Waste Disposal Facility in this country provided that it is operated to the standards laid down by the European Commission and the Environmental Protection Agency. In the industry's view such a facility is required urgently. PharmaChemical Ireland has already made these views clear several times in the past.

Yours sincerely,

Matt Moran
Director- PharmaChemical Ireland



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