

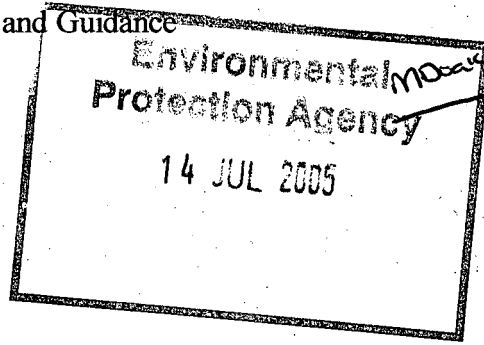
To: EPA
Office of Licensing and Guidance
Johnstown Castle
Co Wexford

Donoughmore
Donard
Co Wicklow

Sub (120)

204-1

Your Ref : 204-1



12 July 05

Re: Further information submitted by Brownfield Restoration (Irl) Ltd

A Chara

I refer to the above and wish to make the following observations:

The SAC boundary has been changed.

The boundary of the application has been changed.

What kind of influence does this company have that it can rearrange official EU designations? This is now the subject of an official complaint to the EU, since the public was given no opportunity to comment on any such change being made.

What cannot be changed of course, is the site itself; it remains where it always was and always will be, adjacent to the important salmonoid Carrigower River, in a sand and gravel quarry, with several protected species of flora and fauna dependent on a healthy environment for their survival. Whether in or out of the SAC boundary, as protectors of the Environment you are aware that this is only a technicality; nothing else has changed; the leachate is no respecter of boundaries and any amount of tinkering with lines on paper will not make things any better.

These changes are a cynical tactical move to try and make it more difficult for beleaguered locals to be fully included as of right in the decision making process concerning OUR local environment. We too are an endangered species. Our ground water, our physical and mental health, our senses of sight, hearing and smell (not to mention outrage) and our property values are seriously under threat if this proposal goes ahead.

Local residents have not been treated fairly in this process. We have had repeated requests for information concerning this site refused because there is a criminal investigation in process. That being so, it stands to reason that there should be NO decision on the future of this site until the courts have made their findings known, *and the relevant information is released to local residents* so that we can have a fair chance of making a properly considered assessment of the situation. Otherwise the whole process is heavily weighted in favour of the applicants who have access to everything that relates to this site and who apparently have ready access to senior political figures. Locals have only BRI's own reports to go on and we have no reason to believe their accuracy. On the contrary, there are many inconsistencies which have been brought to your attention in previous correspondence. Requests under the Freedom of Information Act and Access to Information on the Environment Directive 2003/4 have been refused by the EPA and Wicklow County Council. The Dept of the Environment (Duchas) are currently dragging their heels and have not forwarded any of the information requested on 31 May. Who is hiding what?? What ever happened to transparency in government and government agencies? How can local residents

know what is really going on at this site? How can we know what is the real state of the hydrology? Who can we trust?

If we were to believe BRI's claims, we might yet have a new tourist industry in West Wicklow with sightseers coming from far and wide to see this 'centre of excellence'. It would be a gross mistake to take BRI's claims about anything at face value. As things stand, their claims are virtually unchallenged because *nobody else has access to the relevant information*. It is easy to be persuasive when you can't be challenged.

Has the EPA followed the money trail in relation to this application as is required under the Waste Management Act? Have you investigated the connection between Ray Stokes (Owner/Director of BRI) and TonyDean /A1 Waste, self-confessed illegal dumper on this site and elsewhere? If not, why not?

Have you considered that perhaps this was always the plan: dump illegally, buy the site when found out, pay the fines/do a deal, form a new company, get a licence/planning permission and make further billions. Mr Stokes (BRI) has been quoted as having said that he will get his permissions since he has Fianna Fail and the state agencies "in his pocket". What defence can an ordinary tax-paying Joe Soap have against this kind of skulduggery?

The only licence that should be considered in this case is the one that was issued for Coolmadra (181-1): **Remediation & Restoration of an Unauthorised Landfill**. No further deposits of waste can be allowed on this already seriously polluted and sensitive site. Any other licence will bring with it prolonged appeals and court actions, and complaints and appeals to the EU. This will undoubtedly result in more fines by the EU and negative headlines in the media. It will be years before any remediation will be carried out.

Yours Sincerely

Emer Bailey
for

Russ and Emer Bailey

For inspection purposes only
Consent of copyright owner required for any reuse