

Sub (62)



Mary Upton TD

23 November 2006

Ian Murnane
EPA
Headquarters, PO Box 3000
Johnstown Castle Estate
Wexford



Dear Ian,

I write to you in my capacity as the Labour Party's spokesperson on Agriculture and Food in relation to Fingal County Council's application to develop a landfill at Tooman/Nevitt (W0231-01).

There are a considerable number of horticulture enterprises in the vicinity of the site of the proposed landfill. These farmers rely on water from the Loughshinny aquifer. This aquifer would underlie the proposed landfill. I am concerned a number of aspects in the Environmental Impact Statement submitted by applicant suggest that the exact degree of risk of contamination of the aforementioned aquifer is currently impossible to determine. In particular, I note that the EIS apparently fails to establish the actual bedrock geology beneath the proposed landfill site and the actual influence contamination of the groundwater below the proposed landfill site would have on the whole aquifer. I also note that the EIS does not apparently use the Geological Survey of Ireland published geological structure for the region in its models, but variations of same which do not appear to be grounded on published GSI data. I believe also that the applicant should be required to provide field collection data to verify the location of the groundwater divide (if any) between the Nevitt and Bog of the Ring zone of contribution before any decision is made on the application.

It need hardly be emphasised that any perceived risk of contamination of the aquifer might well have catastrophic implications for local horticultural farmers and, given the importance of this area to Ireland's horticultural production, to Ireland's horticultural production capacity. This risk can only be mitigated by refusing this application. For that reason, I would be grateful if you would refuse this application.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Upton
MARY UPTON T.D.

Phone: 618 3756
E-mail: mary.upton@oireachtas.ie
Dáil Éireann, Kildare Street, Dublin 2

