

Sub. (76)

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY
15 FEB 2007

Shining Rock,
Blackglan Road,
Sandyford,
Dublin 18.

Licensing Unit,
Office of Licensing & Guidance,
Environmental Protection Agency.
Johnstown Castle Estate,
County Wexford

14-2-2007

Re: Waste Licence Application W 0231-01 Fingal Landfill

Submission by Kevin Cullen.

Dear Sirs,

I wish to comment on the Responses by the Applicant to the Agency's request for additional information in accordance with Article 14(2)(b)(ii) of the Waste Management Regulations and as set out in the Applicant's document dated January 2007.

The Applicant reported at the An Bord Pleanala hearing that the Loughshinny Formation at the Bog of the Ring supplies 4,000m³/day to Balbriggan and that this represents 50% of the town's water supply.

The studies carried out by the Applicant at Nevitt have indicated that exactly the same geological conditions occur here as are present at the Bog of the Ring, namely;

- i) the Loughshinny Formation underlies the site
- ii) significant faulting is present and
- iii) that the bedrock is overlain by gravel deposits.

It follows logically therefore that an equivalent supply of groundwater i.e. 4,000m³/day, can be developed from the Loughshinny Formation at Nevitt. Furthermore, based on the TES report, such a groundwater abstraction at Nevitt can take place without interfering in any way with the existing abstraction at the Bog of the Ring.

The Applicant was given every opportunity at the An Bord Pleanala hearing to refute the above statement made by myself and did not do so, nor has the Applicant presented any material in the meantime (as far as I am aware) to suggest that this is not the case.

Whether the study area is shown as being underlain by a Locally Important aquifer is not at issue but whether locating a landfill here will hinder the development of this significant groundwater resource by future generations.

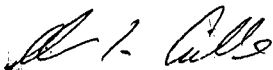
The Applicant has determinedly refused to quantify the groundwater resource that will be compromised by the landfill development, despite carrying out a most exhaustive hydrogeological investigation on and in the environs of the development site.

In the absence of evidence to the contrary and based on the information already put into the public domain the Agency should, under the Precautionary Principle, assume that a significant groundwater resource will be compromised by locating the proposed landfill at the Nevitt site. Allowing the landfill to proceed at Nevitt in this situation would, I respectfully suggest, be contrary to the concept of sustainability.

The Agency should withhold any decision to license this facility until this information deficit is filled. Only then, may I again respectfully suggest, could the Agency fulfill its responsibility in ensuring that projects such as the Nevitt landfill are consistent with the concept of sustainability.

Thank you for you time.

Yours Sincerely,



EurGeol Kevin T. Cullen PGeo.

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