

OH Doc No: 28

Rec'd From: Dr. J. O'Reilly

Date Rec'd: 10/3/08
14.25 p.m.

Dr James Reilly TD
Fine Gael
Shadow Minister for Health

Submission on proposed Landfill at Nevitt Lusk Co. Dublin

May I preface my remarks by saying I am wearing 3 hats here today

- I was elected as a TD for Dublin North in May 2007 and I am here today to represent the concerns of the voters and residents who voted for me during that election.
- I am here also as a resident of Lusk and Rush and where my family and I have homes and a family farm at
- I am also here as a practising GP in Lusk with a patients who reside in all areas

I am concerned about this landfill proposal on a number of fronts

- **Risk of contamination to Aquifer and Groundwater.**

As you are well aware this area is a major producer and supplier of horticultural produce to the Dublin Market. It is also a large local employer in North County Dublin. Murphy's Law applies to landfills as well as every other area of life. I.e. if there is something that can go wrong it will eventually go wrong!!!

I am concerned that the integrity of the water used extensively by the local horticultural producers and processors cannot be guaranteed.

There appears to be concern in the 2007 Environmental Impact Statement that there is not the requisite clay Deposits to protect the groundwater from leaks of Leachate.

I.e. there is reference in the EIS to the fact that necessary clay deposits in the landfill area are not in fact present.

A HDPE liner can be compromised I understand by natural corrosion and certain chemical by-products of waste like vinegar, alcohol, shoe polish, and margarine

Vermin and badgers will most likely compromise the liner and no matter what pest control there is a the landfill site, there will be a large quantity of vermin present.

Faulty seams in a liner can also lead to leaks of contaminated materials.

The drainage system for leachate can also corrode, becomes blocked by silt thus reducing its effectiveness in removing leachate.

When the cells are closed and capped-activity underground still carries on and contamination can still seep into the groundwater.

Taking all of the above into account I am not confident that the aquifer water under this landfill can be protected from contamination.

The supermarkets and buyers of horticultural produce carry out rigorous inspections of producers and processors in the north county Dublin area, in order to guarantee the safety from farm gate to consumer of their products. They insist that water used for the processing of vegetables is potable and safe for human consumption.

If there is the slightest suspicion that this water supply is compromised or even perceived by the consumer/buyer to be at risk of being compromised at some indeterminate time in the future-the buyers will pull the plug on the horticultural industry in north Dublin and source their supplies elsewhere in Ireland but most likely from imports from abroad.

This would be a local and national disaster.

The quantum of the aquifer as I understand has not been fully assessed yet. Some attempts have been made to quantify it but its total capacity has not been fully measured.

This groundwater supply may become the "OIL" of the future for Fingal. It is clean water, not contaminated by nitrates unlike the other aquifer on the south east coast.

The towns referred to in the EIS are earmarked for considerable expansion in the Fingal development plan but I am also aware that these towns will expand further and will need access to a clean water supply.

Fingal County Council seems to have accepted that the need for landfill is greater than the need for clean water.

A landfill can be moved to another area-an aquifer cannot!!!

Incinerator ash from 200,000 tonnes of waste from Dublin is to be disposed of at this site guarantees the safety of this Ash?

It depends what is incinerated in the incinerator.

We have no control over that in this jurisdiction as it will occur in another council area.

The main toxins are heavy metals and chemicals such as dioxins.

Heavy metals don't biodegrade-they will be here in Fingal for tens of thousands of years and will be a risk to the groundwater supply.

Traffic at 500 to 700 Lorries per day in a period of restricted access of approximately 8.5 hours means approximately 100 Lorries per hour effectively reducing the M1 to one lane for the most part of the day.

Where will that leave the lorries and traffic trying to access the Tesco and proposed Dunnes stores national distribution centres nearby at Turvey and the ongoing development of the large industrial business park at Courtlough where there is a strong rumour Guinness are planning to relocate their production plant.

When we were considering a tourist attraction like Vega City the then Fingal county manager implored us not to lose the green fields of North Dublin- so now we get a Superdump on 520 acres instead.

I note from the EIS there is reference to Bird strike dangers to aircraft landing at leaving Dublin Airport as birds travel to the landfill site.

Failure to address this issue will result in cessation of filling at the landfill-but how will this be measured – an air disaster?

*For inspection purposes only.
Consent of copyright owner required for any other use.*

References
Environmental Research Foundation
PO Box 5036
Annapolis MD 21403-7036