

Submission by Stephen Kilgallon, Balbriggan Town Council (Green Party) to the EPA oral Hearing on the proposed Landfill at Nevitt, North County Dublin

North County Dublin must not become the dumping ground for the regions less welcome facilities, whether that is a super prison, super sewage plants or super dump.

I have come here today to add my voice of objection to the proposed dump as a concerned local representative.

The issue at hand is that of the main necessity for human existence, water. We in Ireland are lucky enough at present to have water supplies that are able to sustain householders, agriculture & business. In the coming decades this supply is projected to diminish substantially due to climate change & rising consumption, other sources currently underutilised will have to be sought to supplement the reservoirs. The aquifer which lies under the mid Leinster region, including North County Dublin is the most viable source for large-scale extraction.

With the proposal to place a landfill in the heart of Ireland's major Vegetable growing area, on top of the aquifer & close to a local water reservoir, this constitutes an unacceptable health risk to neighbouring houses, consumers and residents using the water supply. The issue of the current illegal dump that is situated on the proposed site has not been satisfactorily accounted for, quantity/area of material, nature of content and remediation.

The proposal does not take into account that this dump will be situated a considerable distance from the major refuse producing areas (South Dublin/Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown), when there facilities in neighbouring authorities (Wicklow/Kildare) that have additional capacity. The distance is important when the cost of transportation & CO₂ emissions generated are considered.

The proposal also flies in the face of the current program for government and the treatment of waste hierarchy, with landfill being the option of last resort.

I would like to commend the Nevitt, Lusk Action Group for their diligent work on this issue, raising serious questions of the efficacy the proposal. If there are no grounds for this dump on the basis of current or future need, then I would ask the question: What is in this dump for Fingal?

In closing I would like to thank you all for affording me this time, I would like to leave with a Native American Proverb:

"We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children"

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Rec'd From: *CHR Stephen Kilgallon*

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