

OH(2) Sub No. 13

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EPA ORAL HEARING

April 2009

The NLAG wish to make the following final observations which are based the most significant issues arising from the evidence presented by the hydrogeological experts at the oral hearing.

- The Hydrogeological Risk Assessment used inappropriate computer modelling tools.
- The applicant's assertion that the groundwater in the tills is discontinuous and perched is incorrect. Instead it constitutes a saturated body of clay overlying and hydraulically connected to the gravel/bedrock aquifer.
- The compliance point selected for List 1 substances was incorrect. It should have been located at the water table in the clay or, in the case of below-water table conditions, directly below the engineered drainage layer.
- Lateral movement of groundwater in the saturated tills below the liner could be up to 100 times greater than the vertical component,
- Arising from the above the shortest pathway through the clays to the aquifer is in a south-easterly direction where the depth of clay overburden reduces, e.g. at BRC4 some 500 metres down gradient it is only 5 metres thick. Groundwater in the clays therefore could potentially reach this point in half the time taken to travel through 10 metres in a vertical direction.
- For the same reason there is a real threat of pollution to surface streams.
- At some period in the future there is a possibility of malfunction in the passive water control system and consequential overspill of leachate through the capping.

- No assessment of possible pooling of leachate from beneath the bund due to high leachate levels was undertaken.
- No measurements of the cones of depression and zones of contribution of nearby horticultural wells were carried out in the screening process in order to eliminate possible risk of pollution.

This Oral Hearing has had the positive outcome of providing the EPA and the NLAG with the professional opinion of leading experts. Their advice is unanimous i.e. that the project as proposed is fundamentally flawed.

For the Nevitt Lusk Action Group

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