

Attention: Ms. Laura Burke EPA Director General  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of Climate, Licensing & Resource Use  
PO Box 3000  
Johnstown Castle Estate  
County Wexford

Greenhill's  
Beauparc  
Navan  
Co. Meath

14 Aug 2012

Copy to:

Ms. Caroline Connell EPA Inspector (HQ, Wexford)

**Subject: Waste Licence number no. W0140-03 & W0140-04**

I have just been informed that the EPA has granted Panda Waste (Nurendale Ltd) an increase in waste intakes of an extra 85,000 tons!!

This significant increase was granted only 4 weeks after a major fire at Panda that spewed potentially toxic fumes from the waste fire in approximately a 5 km radius for up to 4 days!

At the time of the fire I and my daughter (who is asthmatic) and others spoke to the EPA on the phone concerning this fire informing you of toxic fumes and smells we had to endure.

The reply from the EPA was that it hadn't been established if it was toxic!

According to the EPA website backyard burning of even non hazardous domestic waste causes 50% of the carcinogenic dioxins releases in the Irish environment.

What did burning the reported 700 tons of waste release?

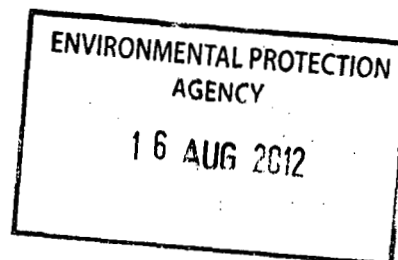
Why did the authorities not evacuate anyone?

The smell was of burning plastic and the black plume of smoke was unquestionably a stinking poison.

We and other neighbours were told to close all windows and doors for up to 4 days.

Some were offered accommodation elsewhere by Panda as it was plain as day the smoke was toxic.

Please review the photographs from Navan fire brigade, they are very telling!



There have been other fires at the Panda's facility at Rathdrinagh and this last fire was just the largest and made the headlines, the other ones we know about.  
Why were the risks from this plant not highlighted or addressed during the licence review or in a consultants report?  
Thankfully nobody was hurt or injured this time

Image this fire if you (the EPA) had granted the Biogas plant in 2009 when the application was made with volatile methane gas alongside a building of highly flammable RDF and beside a large biomass furnace?  
Without exaggeration, there would have been fatalities. Gas fires and gas explosions provide little chance for escape!  
Would a gas explosion empty the contents of the 18ft high toxic waste water tanks and allow lechate seep into the adjacent stream and Boyne river downstream?

I, as yet, have not seen a single report from you, the Environmental **Protection Agency** regarding the cause or results of this fire. I understand the EPA is still waiting for Panda's report some 8 weeks after the fire. Why does it take so long to say what happened?  
Why can't the Environmental **Protection Agency** not conduct this investigation in a timely fashion and make the report available to the public! Did the EPA not interview and take statements immediately after the fire?  
One really wonders who or what exactly is the 'Environmental **Protection Agency**' protecting!

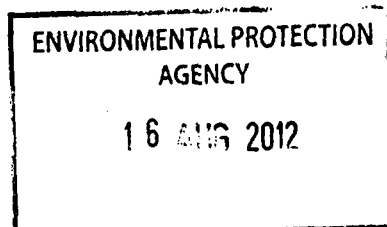
Now Panda have been granted a 52% increase in waste volume without the proper infrastructure in place.  
Where is the waste going or how is this waste to be processed when the plant has just been destroyed by fire?

The current haphazard location beside a main road, beside the Boyne River, beside a world heritage site, beside families is totally inappropriate for a waste plant of this size. Furthermore, it just crazy to build a proposed biogas plant, industrial waste dryer set in the middle of a farming neighbourhood with houses sitting up against the plant!

This increase in waste volume will add further increase in Lorries and HGV's along the N2 and all adjacent routes from Slane, Navan, Duleek, Kentstown etc. routes that are already bogged down with lorry traffic.

The volume of traffic turning in from the N2 to this site is already above capacity and adding further volumes is increasing the danger to all traffic on this part of the N2 which is already a hazardous cross roads!

Furthermore, it is also dangerous to allow these Lorries to cross the forecourt of the adjacent service 'Brink Shop & Petrol station' to enter the facility when the main gate on the Knockcommon road closes. Effectively, these Lorries are then entering directly into the main traffic on the N2, which is a traffic safety issue.



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
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As a community living in this area we have a right to protect our home our properties, and our health and safe guard our children.

I am well aware the pressure the government is under in trying to manage the waste problem in Ireland but short terms solutions, legitimizing haphazard waste developments and irresponsible planning to protect some jobs is not the answer.

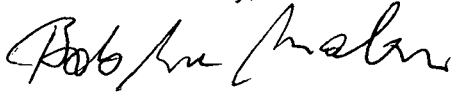
A responsible waste strategy is needed and I am all for correctly managed incineration facilities (to replace landfill) with the proper infrastructure and controls can create hundreds of jobs.

Waste management purely for profit will always end in disaster for everybody.

"To quote from a recent Irish times editorial (April 2012) "an EPA policy that favours economic growth and moves away from its environmental watchdog and policing roles could send the wrong signal to wayward companies and individuals"

We ask the EPA to reverse this decision immediately.

Yours sincerely,



Bob McMahon

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