Submission on Objection No1.

Christina Kavanagh

From: Bob McMahon <bobbymcmahon12@gmail.com>
Sent: 02 August 2016 15:29
To: Licensing Staff
Subject: submission on objection WO140-04
Attachments: August 2016 Submission to EPA regarding Panda Waste licence Reg.docx

Please see attached submission on objection W0140-40

Yours sincerely,
Bob McMahon
Beauparc,
Navan
Co.Meath

Submission on Objection No. 1

Greenhills,
Beauparc,
Navan, Co Meath

Environmental Protection Agency,
Headquarters,
P.O. Box 3000,
Johnstown Castle Estate,
County Wexford

August 2nd. 2016

Submission to EPA regarding Panda Waste licence Reg.no :W0140-04

We the undersigned wish to make a submission regarding the granting of a licence to Panda Waste, located at Rathdrinagh, Beauparc, Navan, Co Meath., Reg;No: W0140-04 on the following grounds:

PANDA cannot be trusted to undertake this operation. Instead of trying to do this with the highest standards of environmental safety and 'eco friendliness', this company consistently pursues the least safe and poorest standards of health and safety for the neighbourhood in which their plant is located, possibly in an effort to maximise profits while sacrificing the environment. PANDA has a dreadful record of non-compliance of regulations to operate a waste plant since the company started.

In PANDA's objection, submitted to the EPA (by O'Callaghan Moran &Associates), PANDA shows a lack of willingness to comply, offering excuses to bend the rules to suit themselves. Eg. Regarding waste capacity, in condition 3.10.5 "*any exceedance of waste intake shall be seen as an incident.*" Since the company are not likely to report the 'incident' and since an EPA inspector will not be permanently on site, this is wide open to abuse. The smells and polluting odours currently emitting from the site are already a danger to our health and this is most likely going to happen repeatedly without anyone noticing until damage is already done to health and quality of life for the local community.

Further see Condition 3.11.2 (b) and again at condition 6.16.1 PANDA is continually trying to circumvent the conditions recommended by the EPA by not installing a negative air system, and compromising the impact assessments, claiming that "The current operations are not a source of either odour nuisance, or impairment of amenities outside the south boundaries". Currently, as we have stated on numerous occasions, there IS an odour nuisance and there is air pollution that is effecting residence breathing.

One of the EPA representatives recently visited the site and was shocked and appalled at the smells. PANDA clearly cannot be trusted to assess or provide responsible management of odours or air emissions and unless the EPA can take responsibility for their compliance this is wholly unacceptable for children and adults who live here.

This attempt to circumvent conditions for safe operation of the licence can be seen in their reference to 3.11.2 c where PANDA suggests that rather than accept that "the bio filter...shall not be operated" they compromise this by suggesting they get permission first and then suggest they will not operate it without prior approval. We all know now that PANDA cannot be trusted to comply with this and therefore when and if they intend to use the bio filter, they can apply at that time only. The EPA must ensure that PANDA cannot put in their own preferred conditions at the expense of our environment.

Once again this attempt to circumvent conditions for safe operation of the licence can be seen in their reference to 3.15 where PANDA wants permission to use the buildings in whatever way they choose, suggesting that the conditions laid down by the EPA are unnecessary, and putting their own "business interests" ahead of environmental considerations. The EPA must ensure that PANDA cannot put in their own preferred conditions at the expense of our environment.

This attempt to circumvent conditions for safe operation of the licence can be also seen in their reference to 6.12; 8.11.7; 8.11.9; 8.12.11; and 8.18.4. The EPA must ensure that PANDA cannot put in their own preferred conditions at the expense of our environment.

The location of this plant is totally inappropriate and hazardous.

The EPA representative who recently visited the site was himself shocked at the location of the site so close to people's homes and a very busy junction on the main Dublin – Derry road where there are numerous heavy vehicles sometimes backed up and causing extremely dangerous traffic conditions. Once again, this very weekend (July 30th.) the prohibited entrance to the plant, - which cuts right through the forecourt of the mini market and petrol station – was in constant use by heavy trucks coming in and out of PANDA, crossing the paths of pedestrians and bank-holiday traffic. This is highly dangerous, PAND knows it is highly dangerous and yet they continue to ignore the conditions of their operating licence.

It is incumbent on the EPA to recognise the context in which this plant is operating. This includes the proximity to the Dunbia Meat Processing plant which also attracts enormous amounts of heavy traffic on the same small country roads and the nearby Greenstar plant also attracting massive trucks on the same roads. The national body for protecting the environment must take responsibility for considering the *overall environmental impact* of these heavy industries together, and assess the conditions that we are expected to live in.

In conclusion, we would like to point out that the inspector's report states that "the conditions and emissions limits will ensure the environmental emissions will not lead to adverse impacts on human health" but we all know that this cannot be ensured. Particularly where the activity is so immense and dangerous and the monitoring and compliance is so low if at all, to even consider granting this license smacks of even lighter regulation than we have witnessed previously from the EPA.

Therefore, we must most strenuously object to the granting of this licence and trust that *our* Environmental Protection Agency will indeed prioritise the needs and health of the environment and the community over the profits and short term employment statistics of big business.

Sincerely,

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