

Ringaskiddy Incinerator

Unnecessary
Unsafe
Unacceptable

"To protect and improve the natural environment for present and future generations, taking into account the environmental, social and economic principles of sustainable development."
EPA Mission Statement

"Ireland presently has insufficient resources to carry out adequate risk assessments for proposed waste management facilities."
Health Research Board
Report

"Prevention, minimisation, reuse and recycling continue to be the most favoured options in the waste hierarchy."
EPA Briefing Paper

CHASE



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Oral Hearing of objections to EPA licence

What's the Oral Hearing about?

In October, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a draft licence for TWO incinerators at Ringaskiddy.

The licence sets out the conditions under which Indaver Ireland will operate and manage these incinerators.

CHASE made a detailed submission on Indaver's licence application. These pointed out the principal flaws, errors and areas of concern in the application. Most of these are not addressed in the draft licence.

Fifteen objections to the proposed licence were received by the EPA. These will now be the subject of an Oral Hearing.

Can I come?

YES. It's an informal public hearing, so anyone can attend. By turning up you demonstrate your concern.

Date and Venue

- Monday Feb 14th, 11.30am
(St. Valentines Day)
- Great Southern Hotel, Cork Airport

EPA - judge and jury



The Oral Hearing allows objectors to orally express their objections to the proposed licence. But who will adjudicate and who will answer our questions?

No independent appeals body

- The EPA grants and monitors the licence.
- An EPA Inspector chairs the Oral Hearing, assesses the objections and makes recommendations to the EPA Board.
- So, the EPA adjudicates on objections to its own decisions. There is no independent appeals body.
- Only once has the EPA refused a licence to a company with planning permission.

Many questions but no one to answer

- All matters raised at the hearing are open for discussion and question, *but only among the objectors.*
- The EPA does not attend the Hearing to answer questions or explain their licence conditions.

No accountability

- The EPA Act confers immunity on the Agency and indemnifies its staff against claims. In the event of damage to our health or environment, the EPA cannot be held accountable.

The EPA and human health

The EPA is prohibited, by law, from granting a licence unless it is satisfied that emissions will not cause significant environmental pollution or endanger human health. But . . .

- It has no in-house medical expert and did not seek the advice of an outside expert before granting the licence.
- It admits that there is no system here to routinely monitor the health of people

living near incinerators, but considers this a matter for the Dept. of Health and the Health Boards.

- How can the EPA warn of the lack of health information and monitoring systems on the one hand and on the other hand assure us that the facilities at Ringaskiddy will not endanger human health or harm the environment?

Public Opinion Counts - Come and be Counted



Come to the Oral Hearing and demonstrate your concern!

Mon. 14th February (Saint Valentines Day), 11.30am
Wilton Suite, Great Southern Hotel, Cork Airport

"the proposed site . . . is objectively unsuitable to accommodate the proposed development."

**An Bord Pleanála
Inspector's Report**

"More than 200 dairy and livestock farms in Holland, Belgium and Germany have been temporarily closed, following the discovery of dioxin contamination in some of the feed given to the animals."

**Farmers Weekly
(Nov 2004)**

*Community voices count!
After long-running campaigns by community groups, three UK local authorities have abandoned incineration plans in favour of alternative solutions.*
DIRT magazine

"there is not sufficient evidence before the Board to satisfy it that the proposed development would not pose risks to public safety in the event of major accident hazard."

**An Bord Pleanála
Inspector's Report**

"Short-term exposure of humans to high levels of dioxins may result in skin lesions and altered liver function. Long-term exposure is linked to impairment of the immune system, the developing nervous system, the endocrine system and reproductive functions."

WHO Fact Sheet

Judicial Review gets go-ahead

On January 24th, a High Court judge determined that there were substantial grounds for a Judicial Review of the planning permission for Ireland's first toxic-waste incinerator at Ringaskiddy, Co Cork.

The case is being taken against An Bord Pleanála, The State and The Attorney General by the Ringaskiddy and District Residents Association and 11 harbour residents.

The challengers claim that the Bord has infringed their rights to fair procedures, to respect for family life and bodily integrity.

They allege that the Bord has breached provisions of the Constitution and EU Law as well as the recently adopted European Convention on Human Rights Act.

CHASE now looks forward to full proceedings in the High Court.

Don't tell us there's no danger - two hazardous waste incinerator accidents in seven weeks



A fire at a hazardous waste incineration plant in El Dorado, Arkansas (2 Jan, 2005) required evacuation of 1,500 people.



This comes hot on the heels of an explosion at another hazardous waste incinerator in Argentina (Nov, 2004)

where one operator died and five firemen were injured by the ensuing fireball.

EPA licence objections (just a selection)

Licence increases waste to be burnt
The licence permits burning of up to 215,260 tonnes. This exceeds by 115,000 tonnes the tonnage in the plant's planning permission.

Licence granted for 2nd incinerator
The licence covers a second, municipal waste incinerator. Licence conditions appear to confer exempted development status on this incinerator, thus bypassing the planning process and infringing our democratic rights.

Inadequate bond
Indaver proposes to only partly fund a clean up operation in the event of an accident, leaving the taxpayer to fund the rest.

Recent data invalidates flood levels in EIS
The site was severely flooded during the storms and high tides on October 27th/28th, in particular the area where large volumes of hazardous and potentially explosive chemicals are to be stored. And the tides were not even the highest in the last 100 years.

No health risk assessment
Despite evidence of a link between proximity to incinerators and adverse health effects, no assessment of the risk to the 45,000

inhabitants living within 5km of the site has ever been carried out.

No operational experience
Mr. John Ahern (Indaver MD) admits that Indaver has no operational experience of the incinerator type proposed (fluidized-bed).

And Indaver Ireland has no personnel who have ever worked on an incinerator – the plant will, in fact be monitored from Belgium.

Moreover, the Indaver incinerator in Flanders has had serious emissions breaches – more than 1800 times above dioxin limits.

Toxic residual ash
The plant will produce hazardous ash that must be disposed of to a hazardous waste landfill. As there is no such landfill in Ireland, the ash must be exported. This breaches the proximity and self-sufficiency justifications for the plant.

Inappropriate weather data
The model used to predict the impact of emissions was based on data from Cork Airport, where meteorological conditions are quite different. Cork Harbour regularly experiences thermal inversions which would trap pollutants in the Harbour area.



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