

Re: Appeal of: Decision by Kerry County Council to grant Permission to Roadstone Wood Limited under :
Air Licence Application AP20-01, Roadstone Limited.



V93K8X5.


14 June 2021

To: Environmental Protection Agency.

A Dhaoine Uaisle,

We, Michael and Kathleen Gleeson, on our own behalf and on behalf of our immediate Clasheen, Killarney neighbours, to formally Appeal the grant of permission by Kerry County Council for an Air Pollution Licence to Roadstone Wood Ltd. (AP20-01) under the Air Pollution [Licensing of Industrial Plant] Regulations, 1988.

We are aware that our Minish [Mágh Inish = Plain by the River Flesk] neighbours have also submitted an Appeal to this application and having carefully read their Appeal we share their many very genuine concerns and make the following points of, we believe, considerable relevance to individual/community health and environmental standards. Some of these points refer particularly to our personal situation and the rest have general application for us and our immediate neighbours -at least sixteen households.

We live beside the N.22 and are  from the boundary of the Roadstone Quarry. We have on many occasions endured the unwelcome presence of fine sand blowing in the wind from both the Quarry and from the UNCOVERED trucks transporting the material to and from the site. But at least sand is not too harmful unlike invisible Particulates and Toxic emissions. It is scarcely necessary to state that Particulate Matter [PM] when inhaled, has an adverse effect on the respiratory system and is associated with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, bronchial asthma, strokes, heart disease and some cancers. The risks are of course greater for persons of our age category and for any person with an underlying medical condition[s]. The very clear regular empirical physical evidence of sand and dust blowing in the wind from the Quarry shows/proves that emissions from the proposed Plant will do likewise to the detriment of human, animal and environment.

During our many years living here, we have striven to become self- sufficient from a kitchen garden perspective. Our potatoes, onions, legumes, cabbages, carrots and parsnips, tomatoes, cucumbers etc. are home grown and are mainly organically grown using compost from the cut grass from our lawn. We are extremely worried at the thought of having our grass/compost or our vegetable produce contaminated by dangerous and invisible toxins. It has wisely often been said that the poisons and toxins that we see can be managed and controlled but the invisible ones have a lasting and sometimes fatal impact. After 40 plus years of good practice we do not relish the prospect of consuming food contaminated/poisoned invisibly. Nor do wish to have our life quality or life span adversely impacted by inflicted poisons

The long- established Quarry is circumscribed by farmland on which animals graze. There is at least one dairy herd immediately proximate and others at some little remove to the proposed plant. The particulates and toxins when they come to ground will undoubtedly, through the process of Osmosis, enter the grass roots and thence transfer to the edible part of the plant which the animals will consume. Contaminated milk will inevitably result, as will contaminated meat when animals are slaughtered. You Are What You Eat is not a saying reserved solely for humans. They are sadly the final port of call for the contaminated product.

Killarney town and its environs has long been recognized as an area not best suited to people with respiratory problems such as asthma.

Killarney Lakes are merely 20 Mts over sea level. The location of the Roadstone Wood Limited proposed development is less than 100 Mts over sea level. Due to the entire catchment being encircled by mountains and hills the climatic phenomenon known as Inversion is quite common and this will ensure that the deleterious material being emitted at the plant will come to ground very quickly. It was largely for this reason that the entire area was recently included in the Smokey Coal ban. To use Cork Airport (built on a hill) as the refence location for wind direction/speed beggars belief and is considered an insult to our local community with its unique topographical almost 'soup bowl' nature where what is emitted largely stays within.

The medical professionals are constantly advocating that we should all exercise more for our overall well- being. The circuit from Lissivigeen [Gillian O' Sullivan] Roundabout [N22-N.72] through Clash, Clasheen, Minish onto the L. 11072 and back to Lissivigeen Roundabout is hugely popular with walkers and joggers. It is an absolute blessing for so many during this time of Pandemic. It would be tragic to pollute its wonderfully therapeutic fresh air. A section of the L.11072 is immediately adjacent [within 60 mts] to the proposed Plant.

My wife and I are both in our seventies [Michael 75 and Kathleen 70] and many of those living close to the proposed location are also retired persons or the next generation starting out in family life with their own young children. We cherish living in and being able to recreate in a location that is free from particulates or toxins. It is not unreasonable that we would ask to be allowed continue to do so.

The local community has over the many years of the Quarry's existence tried to be very fair and understanding. As mentioned earlier fine sand blowing in the wind from the Quarry or from uncovered trucks and the noise from ugly industrial equipment has been a sometimes nuisance as has the early morning reveille of reversing vehicles with their strident tooting. But we accepted those, despite frequent requests to Kerry County Council [to no avail] to ensure that all trucks would be covered. But surely there comes a time when a Community has to be acknowledged and safeguarded. No Statutory Body has the right to deliberately jeopardise the physical and mental health and wellbeing of a Community that treasures country living.

There is a noted Spring Well, known as Minish Well, on the old Minish Road and this is sometimes used by families who want to drink water at its purest and best and by us and others during periods of water outage and shortage. Its subterranean source/course is most likely, in fact we would surmise definitely, within the Quarry. It enters the River Flesk and if the Well is polluted that pollution will transfer into the Flesk and from there into the Killarney Lakes. Should the end product of the Plant with its density ten times that of Diesel enter the water courses the result will be catastrophic. See following point

The once pristine River Flesk has most certainly endured enough pollution over the past 40 years and strong efforts are being made with the cooperation of Kerry County Council [Lough Léin Catchment Committee] to restore its previous pristine purity. Toxic chemicals will most certainly not advance that noble pursuit. A river that once was rich in salmon and nurtured the Fresh Water Pearl Mussel and the Stone Fly [Caddis] cannot hope to be regenerated if it is to be forced to host Toxins and Particulates from a nearby Plant. The River Flesk is the recipient of ALL the run off from the Roadstone Quarry. It will certainly not sit well with local residents, environmentalists or tourist interests if the world renowned Lakes of Killarney become further polluted by works approved by both Kerry County Council and the Environmental Protection Agency. The Lakes of Killarney are the economic life blood of South Kerry and being further polluted will have long term consequences for the entire region. The struggle to save and regenerate The Lakes and their tributaries is on-going and regular updates are given on its condition by the Kerry County Council Laboratory: Mr David Lenihan would I am sure give an update, historic and present if requested. The Lough Leane Catchment Group is comprised of representatives from many statutory and non-statutory bodies including: Killarney National Park, Inland Fisheries, River Flesk Anglers, Elected Councillors, Coillte, Irish Farmers Association and Lough Leane Anglers. The proximity of the River Flesk to the Quarry is shown by the fact that John A Wood Ltd and more recently Roadstone Limited have over the many years extracted and we believe continue to extract

water [Water Extraction Licenece?] from the Flesk. Quite frankly it beggars belief that the future wellbeing of the River Flesk was not a consideration in the Council's assessment of the application. It is much closer to the Quarry than the also very special location known as Sheheree Raised Bog.

We conclude our submission with this brief excerpt from the very recent [Irish Examiner: 30th November, 2020] EPA report: "Tackling the sources of Nitrogen Dioxide and Particulate Matter is the key challenge in our cities and countryside." We request that you do not inflict that challenge on our neighbours, ourselves or our precious environment. Prevention is always better than Cure. We simply ask that you would give positive evidence of your commitment to what is your own Report by upholding our objection.

Ár mBuíochas libh as an ndr éacht thuas a léamh. Thank you for reading the above.

Michael and Kathleen Gleeson

14th June, 2021.

Location of Facility: Glasheen, Killarney, Co. Kerry.