



Environmental Protection Agency,

Environmental Licensing Programme Office of Environmental Sustainability.

18 July 2022

Reg No E0010-01

A Dhaoine Uaisle,

The development of an Asphalt Plant is a matter of very grave concern for our very precious environment and also for the human beings, us and many others, who live proximate to the proposed development at Clasheen, Killarney, Co. Kerry by Roadstone Limited.

As a recently retired elected member of Kerry County Council following thirty years membership, I [Michael Gleeson] am astounded that this proposed development was never either brought to our attention or advertised by a Roadside Notice as is normal for all other planning applications.

It beggars belief that neither Inland Fisheries Ireland nor the National Parks and Wildlife Service [NPWS] were appraised of the proposed development nor asked for their informed opinions. All water run-off from the Roadstone Quarry sooner or later enters the River Flesk which is the major tributary of Killarney Lakes both of which are noted locations for salmon and trout fishing. The Lakes of course are the jewel in the crown of Killarney and Kerry's vital tourism industry. Any pre-meditated action that would/will compromise those waters would be most serious indeed.

Sheheree Raised Bog (SAC 000382) is a long-protected location where fragile and precious Lichens and Sphagnum mosses prosper. As the country at large begins to understand how precious our raised bogs are, it would be more than passing strange if a State Body authorised a development that would seriously compromise the pristine nature of Shehree Bog which has for long been greatly respected and treasured by local people. Indeed, a previously unknown Moss was recently found in this general area, there may be others. Let's not compromise or destroy them.

The carrying out of an Appropriate Assessment is welcome but the objectivity of such actions by Consultants employed by Planning Applicants has for long been a cause for concern. This same concern regarding objectivity is relevant in this instance. The proximate residents to the proposed development have met with SLR Consulting Ireland in the past in relation to other concerns at the quarry and were not reassured.

We, the immediate residents, have neither the scientific expertise nor the financial resources to minutely respond to the Consultants' report nor should we be expected to. We should feel confident that the agencies of the State will ensure highest standards in seeking to protect BOTH its citizens and its precious environment.

From our studying of reports from elsewhere we know that:

1: Breathing Asphalt fumes can and does irritate the nose, throat and lungs of people and animals causing coughing, wheezing, nausea and shortness of breath.

2: These emissions can form tiny particle called PM2.5 which are very dangerous to human health.

3: Volatile Organic Compounds [VOCs] particles can be emitted into the air after certain chemical reactions. These, when they vaporise can stay airborne indefinitely. Asphalt Plants emit significant amounts of these gases, which can be hazardous to health. When they come to ground, as they invariably do, their toxicity will damage plant and invertebrate life.

The Consultants report uses the term 'Imperceptible' amount in relation to emissions but most assuredly as the emissions are continuous the amount becomes Cumulative and thus deleterious to both human and environment.

A north easterly breeze, though not the prevailing wind, is a fairly regular occurrence in the Killarney area and such a breeze will carry the toxic material to Sheheree Bog and to Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks, the Caragh River Catchment (SAC 000365) and the River Flesk/Killarney Lakes.

We are aware that the appeal refers to very specific items and we have hopefully expressed our concerns relating to those matters but we suggest that the time is now to review the entire matter of such applications at both Local Authority and EPA levels before a decision is made on this appeal.

It seems very wrong to us that our health and that of our neighbours – some (including my wife Katheen Gleeson ) having fairly fragile health - were not given due consideration at planning stage, through information and consultation.

We live in an area where huge priority is given to environmental matters and where volunteers, including ourselves, strive to both undo previous pollution/ environmental neglect and enhance and protect our most precious natural inheritance. We would appreciate acknowledgement and dynamic support.

Ár mBuíochas libh.

Michael and Kathleen Gleeson

