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To: <epa_review@environ.ie>
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Subject: Review of the EPA



Co. Kildare

27th May 2010

To all members of the review committee

Re: Review of the Environmental Protection Agency

Firstly I would like to say how delighted I am that this review is finally happening. I personally have been looking for it for years.

Unfortunately, I live within yards of a waste facility which was recently sanctioned with an injunction by the High Court to cease all its operations immediately. There is apparently in excess of ONE MILLION tonnes of illegally stored waste on this site.

Unless any of you has ever had the misfortune to inhale noxious odours 24 hours a day 365 days a year, deal with dust and grime on windows 24 hours a day 365 days a year. Unless any of you has ever had to seal the edges of your windows with black tape in an effort to stop the odours from permeating throughout the rooms of your home, linking onto your clothes and personal belongings 24 hours a day 365 days a year. Unless any of you have had to witness your aging parents suffer with running noses, respiratory infections and constant coughing, streaming eyes 14 hours a day 365 days a year.

Unless you have had to endure the arduous, lengthy, irritating and annoying process which we have had to endure for almost 5 years you will *NEVER *know the pain of dealing with an agency like the EPA which lacks the basic courtesy of replying to a registered letter which was written by my 73 year old mother in the early hours of a November night in 2009 because she could not sleep with the pungent, noxious odours.

My personal experience of the majority of the individuals within the agency has been agreeable, Mary Kelly excluded, as she is hardly ever there, between sick leave and being out of office on meetings in Dublin, she never ever has replied to any of my correspondence with her. The other members of staff are polite and courteous, patient and have admitted that they wished they had more powers to act quicker with regard to facilities which are found in breach of their waste licences

So, in essence I would urge you to (1) change the structure of the Board of Directors - it is currently composed of all Executive Directors. This is, in my opinion, a serious anomaly.

(2) Give greater powers to the EPA so that it can close down facilities

which have been found to be non-compliant with their licence.

(3) There is real and good reason for all licences to be issued subject to suitable bonds being put in place to ensure that there is funding in the event that facilities close without fulfilling their obligations.

(4) At present, the EPA are not policed by anyone, so in effect they apparently can renege on their duties and not be reprimanded for that. I think some form of a non-political voluntary monitoring group be put in place to oversee their work.

Thank you in advance for listening to me.

Kind regards

Anne Fitzpatrick

