

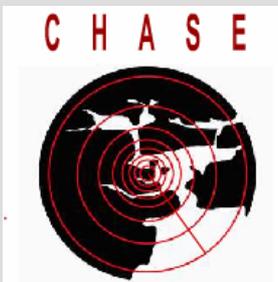
*"coastal or riverine areas with a history of flooding every 100 years or less, and areas susceptible to stream-channel or storm encroachment"*

**WHO site exclusion factor for hazardous waste facilities**

*"it is considered that the site, by reason of . . . risk of erosion and flooding of parts of the site, would be fundamentally unsuitable to accommodate the proposed development"*  
**An Bord Pleanála Inspector's Report**

*"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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## Flooding an Almighty Sign that Incinerator Site is Wrong

Oct 27<sup>th</sup> – Storm force winds, high tides and heavy rain left the Ringaskiddy incinerator site submerged under several feet of water.

And 15,000 residents on Great Island were left stranded when Belvelly bridge was swamped. If there had been a serious accident at the plant, there would have been no escape route!

This flooding is direct proof that the site fails under WHO site selection criteria, and backs up concerns expressed by the An Bord Pleanála Inspector about site suitability.

Mr. John Ahern (Indaver) dismissed concerns, stating that An Bord Pleanála, the Health &

Safety Authority (HSA) and the EPA all believe that the site is appropriate. But . . .

- Site selection does not come under the remit of either the HSA or the EPA.
- An Bord Pleanála's senior inspector concluded that the site was *"fundamentally unsuitable"* and stated in his report on the Oral Hearing that:

*"There is some reason to believe . . . that the location of Ringaskiddy, and possibly the subject site itself, had already been chosen before the applicants even became aware of the WHO Guidelines. Ms. Burke's answers on this matter were, at best, evasive."*

## EPA issues Draft Licence for incinerator

Oct 27<sup>th</sup> – the EPA announced a Draft Licence for the Ringaskiddy incinerator on the same day that a legal challenge to the incinerator was to begin. Interesting timing!

The decision is subject to a 28-day public consultation period in which objections or requests for oral hearings can be lodged.

### EPA - what you should know

The EPA said it is satisfied that the incinerator would not endanger human health or harm the environment. But let's be under no illusion about the EPA:

- It has no in-house medical expert and did not seek the advice of an outside expert before granting the draft licence.
- It admits that there is no system here to routinely monitor the health of people living near incinerators.
- It has *never* refused a licence to a

company that has planning permission.

- Indaver's former project manager, responsible for the Waste Licence application to the EPA, is now an EPA director. (The EPA states that she did not participate in or influence its consideration of the application).

In addition, the EPA's own document on *Climate Change* advises that development should be curtailed in areas at risk of erosion and flooding from more frequent storm weather conditions. Cork Harbour was specifically identified as being under threat.

### Residents call for Oral Hearing

CHASE, its member groups, other community groups and individuals are now seeking an Oral Hearing on the EPA licence.

In the next couple of weeks, you may be asked to add your name to an objection or to a request for an oral hearing. Please support this initiative – it is your democratic right.

## High Court hearing adjourned again



After numerous deferrals, the High Court challenge against the hazardous waste incinerator at Ringaskiddy was due to begin on October 27<sup>th</sup>.

However, no judge was available to hear the case, and it was adjourned for mention again on November 11<sup>th</sup>. It now seems likely that the case could be delayed until the New Year.

The legal challenge is being brought against An Bord Pleanála, the state, and the Attorney General, by the Ringaskiddy and District Residents Association and 11 harbour residents.

The applicants are seeking to overturn the planning permission on several grounds, including that it breaches our rights under the Constitution, under two EU Directives and under the European Convention on Human Rights.

*"There is a serious deficiency of baseline environmental information in Ireland, a situation that should be remedied."*  
**Health Research Board report**

*"Besides being more sustainable Zero Waste has economic benefits. Recycling and recovery activities are job rich compared to landfill and incineration."*  
**EPA Briefing Paper**

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

*"It was suggested by third parties that the site selection process outlined in the EIS, based on a combination of WHO Guidelines criteria and the applicants' own criteria, selectively used, was subsequently prepared to retrospectively justify the already chosen site. While there is no specific concrete evidence of this supposition either way, I consider that such an inference is reasonable on the basis of the evidence put before me at the oral hearing."*  
**An Bord Pleanála Inspector's Report**

*Irish Doctor's Environmental Association "have great concerns over emanations from incinerators. Recent research shows that particles from incinerators cause respiratory and cardio-vascular disease"*  
**Irish Medical News 01/11/2004**

## Ministers concede incinerator site inappropriate

4th Nov – Defence Minister Willie O'Dea and Junior Environment Minister Batt O'Keeffe have conceded that the proposed site at Ringaskiddy is "inappropriate."

They join a long list of individuals and institutions reaching this conclusion:

- The site fails WHO site selection criteria. One of many reasons for this is its proximity to the National Maritime College.
- Cork County Council voted that the site did not merit a Material Contravention of the County Development Plan.
- An Bord Pleanála's Planning Inspector gave 14 reasons why the project should not get planning permission. Ten of these related to the location of the site and he raised specific concerns about flooding.
- Dr Paul Johnston, Head of Research, Greenpeace Research Laboratories, Exeter University, stated that, with one possible exception, topographically he had never seen a worse choice of site for locating an incinerator.
- Government minister, Michael Martin, has expressed reservations about the site.

## Show of unity at Dail Protest



Oct 27<sup>th</sup> – In a show of unity, CHASE were supported by Ringsend Combined Residents Against Incinerator and other groups at a protest outside the Dáil.

From Ringaskiddy to Ringsend, the message was clear:

INCINERATORS ARE NOT WELCOME

CHASE submitted a letter to the Minister for the Environment, Mr Dick Roche, requesting a moratorium on incineration until intensive prevention and maximum recycling programmes have been implemented.

The letter asks the Minister to implement the Waste Management Pyramid sequentially, instead of concentrating on what is considered internationally as the least favoured option.

## CHASE Chairperson voted in for another term

At the recent AGM, member groups of CHASE were unanimous in returning Mary O'Leary for a second term as Chairperson of the organization.

In her address Ms O'Leary congratulated members on their commitment, dedication and determination and said:

"It is important to reinforce that we, the community, have the right and the duty to question this project – particularly as An Bord Pleanála granted planning permission despite the fact that:

- The Oral Hearing Inspector said it was contrary to national and county policy, and a risk to public safety.
- The Indaver incinerator in Flanders has had serious emissions breaches – more than 1800 times above dioxin limits.
- Indaver have no experience of running this type of incinerator.
- Even Indaver admits that the plant proposed for Cork is below the standard recommended by the Basle Convention for disposing of solid hazardous waste.
- None of the on-site management team will have previous experience in running an incinerator. Any experienced personnel will be based in their Flanders Plant - the Cork plant will be managed from Belgium!

Ms O'Leary continued:

"The recent reshuffle within Indaver, arising from the controversial departure of Laura Burke to the EPA, leaves even less experienced staff at the helm."



**www.chaseireland.org**

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