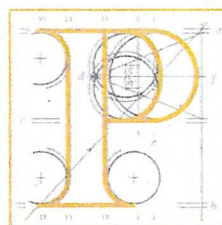


Our Case Number: ABP-318802-24
Planning Authority Reference Number:



An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

Mandy Collins
An Teach Beag
Myrtleville
Co. Cork
P43D923

Date: 21 November 2025

Re: Proposed development of a resource recovery centre (including waste-to-energy facility)
in Ringaskiddy, County Cork.

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Coimisiún Pleanála has received your recent submission in relation to the above mentioned proposed development and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter. Please accept this letter as a receipt for the fee of €50 that you have paid.

The Commission will revert to you in due course with regard to the matter.

Please be advised that copies of all submissions / observations received in relation to the application will be made available for public inspection at the offices of the local authority and at the offices of An Coimisiún Pleanála when they have been processed by the Commission.

More detailed information in relation to strategic infrastructure development can be viewed on the Commission's website: www.pleanala.ie.

If you have any queries in the meantime please contact the undersigned officer of the Commission. Please quote the above mentioned An Coimisiún Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Commission.

Yours faithfully,

Kevin McGettigan
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737263

PA04

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Observation from Mandy Collins, An Teach Beag, Myrtleville, Co. Cork, P43D923

Observation on SID application, case reference: PA04.318802, Ringaskiddy, Co. Cork

Please refuse the planning application by Indaver NV trading as Indaver Ireland for a resource recovery centre (including waste-to-energy facility) at Ringaskiddy, Co. Cork.

I believe there are numerous reasons to refuse this application, but I would like to highlight three, which are particularly significant to me: Indaver lacks integrity in this application, which is an irresponsible response to our current climate emergency, flies in the face of the circular economy, and possibly most significantly for An Coimisiun Pleanala: the Ringaskiddy site is not suitable for the proposed development.

Integrity

I am extremely concerned about the health of our planet. I applauded the Dáil's declaration of a climate emergency in 2019. I take my own measures to care for the environment in view of this declaration. Soon after buying my house in 2009 in Myrtleville, which is at the entrance to Cork harbour, I installed solar energy collectors as a sustainable way to heat my water. I grow some of my own food in my garden. I bought and continue to use a relatively old electric car (2015) despite its limited range. Despite there being no household waste collection service to my house I do not burn my own waste and I have actively discouraged my neighbour from this practise, which is illegal, as stated by the Citizens Information website. I compost at home, recycle what I can and take the remainder of my rubbish to Cork City's civic amenity site. All these actions are motivated by wanting to look after the environment and are informed by the public debate on environmental issues.

Indaver, on the other hand, appear to be motivated only by profit. They submitted 4,000 pages of "new information" on 29th August: an impressive quantity of words, lacking quality and integrity. Some of their points are completely irrelevant, for example:

"Dioxin and furan data for the Ringaskiddy area, for the time period 2013 to 2023, was obtained from the EPA, concluding that the baseline environment with regards to PCDD/F in the Ringaskiddy area can be considered to be unchanged since the original planning application was submitted in 2016." (page 22, Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Non-Technical Summary).

On the same page, also under the heading "Population and Human Health", we are informed that "the risks posed to human health and the environment by the facility will be as low as reasonably practicable." This is hardly reassuring. Again and again in the EIS we are told about mitigation measures, which clearly demonstrates that the proposed resource recovery centre will have negative impacts which must be mitigated for. Under the heading "Emission reduction" (page 12, EIS Non-Technical Summary) "The facility will be designed to minimise the formation of dioxins and furans" If the facility is not built, no dioxins and furans will be formed. On the same page we learn that Indaver have not decided yet what they are going to do with the 53,630 tonnes of bottom ash that will be produced by the proposed facility, but they admit that it cannot currently be recycled in Ireland. Page 28 admits that the facility will contribute to Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions: "In the operational phase the contribution to total

greenhouse gas emissions is minor in the context of strategic infrastructure.” This is in the context of Ireland already being behind with emission reduction targets. On the same page, under the heading “Climate”, we find predictions about the facility’s future emissions being compared to the “fossil-fuel burning power stations” of the past (Cork is already well served by wind-generated power). Under the heading “Biodiversity”, we are informed “Birds in the surrounding landscape are expected to habituate to the volume of activity proposed” which just insults our intelligence!

In conclusion, I assert that Indaver lacks integrity in this application as they have submitted quantity but not quality; it is full of irrelevance, nonsense, misinformation, evidence of incompetence and bad planning, illogic and more nonsense and shows no real concern for the environment.

Pursuing a circular economy

The Government of Ireland currently sponsors adverts on the radio, from circular.ie urging me to reduce consumption, reuse items and recycle what I cannot continue to use. I find this encouraging as

“When communities organise around circularity, individual efforts multiply and become transformational movements.” (<https://circular.ie>)

Under the heading “Country-level change”, this government sponsored website explains country-level change:

“This is when countries embrace circularity at a national and global level. It involves creating policies, laws and infrastructure that makes it easier for people and businesses to shift; right-to-repair legislation, deposit return schemes, circular design standards and business models based on reuse rather than disposal.”

Indaver’s proposed resource recovery centre (including waste-to-energy facility) represents infrastructure that would make it more difficult for people and businesses to shift to circularity. The conclusion of section 4.1 of the Ringaskiddy Resource Recovery Centre Planning Report, Issue 2, 2025 (page 17) reveals Indaver’s attitude towards waste as a “valuable indigenous resource”:

“The Ringaskiddy Resource Recovery Centre will be an important infrastructural development that reduces Ireland’s reliance on the export of waste, and that produces electricity from a valuable indigenous resource.”

This flies in the face of attempts to address the fundamental source of the waste problem by reducing waste production in the first place, thus shrinking the need for such disposal facilities. These attempts are national, such as circular.ie mentioned above, and local to the proposed site of the proposed facility, such as Cork County Council’s Circular Economy Fund.

The Ringaskiddy site is inherently unsuitable

The proposed site in Ringaskiddy is not suitable for the proposed resource recovery centre. On three previous occasions, An Bord Pleanála Inspectors (Jones in 2004, Yukel Finn in 2009 and Daly in 2017) concluded that the Ringaskiddy site is inherently unsuitable for the proposed facility. The site is too small and is getting smaller, due to coastal erosion on one side and the development of the M28 on the other. All three inspectors were dissatisfied with Indaver's EIS; the content is again, in 2025, deficient in substance (lots of quantity, no quality). The proposed site is also known to be a flood risk area. Despite all the rational, logical objections to Indaver's proposed site, they continue to push for planning permission there simply because they already own the land:

"Indaver still consider the Indaver-owned site an appropriate site for the proposed development, given that it is already owned by Indaver" (page 20, EIS, Non-Technical Summary).

More recent developments in the area include the zoning of the site as suitable for the extension of the Third Level Educational campus and enterprise related development including marine related education, enterprise, research and development (Cork County Development Plan 2022-2028). Tourism is flourishing in Cork Harbour. Nearby, and with a clear view of the site, Cobh welcomes cruise ships with thousands of visitors. Spike Island is now a tourist destination, as is Camden Fort Meagher in Crosshaven. Various boating activities are enjoyed in the harbour: sailing, kayaking, pleasure trips. My own village of Myrtleville has a newly marked cycle route running through it. The proposal of a resource recovery centre involving the incineration of rubbish, even including toxic waste, in Cork Harbour flies in the face of this growth of tourism.

Please take my submission seriously; the €50 fee for making this observation represents a large chunk of my weekly income.

I wish to request an Oral Hearing to continue full public participation in this application.