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19th November 2024

FAO The commissioners

LA10/2017/1249F

2021/DR001

LA10:2019/1386/F & LA11/2019/1000F

TrC 081/20_1-DAERA & TrC80/20_2-DAERA

I wish to put in a rebuttal on the above planning applicants. I ask that you refer to my original Statement of Cases on all the above. The points I want to rebuttal are:

Dalradian claim the Waste rock facility is safe.

A Dry stack is not suitable for wet climates and damp conditions

It will release heavy metals into ground water. There will be acid lineage drainage

It will be seen above the skyline and affect the landscape.

Contaminated dust will blow from it up to 50 lm away.

It will remain a danger for many generations to come.

Its stability will be a risk for generations.

Who will look after it in 30, 50, 100 years' time as it will still be a ticking timebomb.

The promises Dalradain makes now would no longer count if the mine changes hands, worth noting Dalradian is only an exploratory company.

Dalradian claim of jobs and economic benefit:

For the small number of short-term jobs create, how many sustainable long-term jobs will be lost in tourism, agriculture, fishing and other small local businesses who will have to compete for workers.

This area already has plenty of work opportunities with many businesses looking elsewhere for a workforce.

Dalradian during planning has cost the taxpayer in Northern Ireland a lot of money between grants, tax incentives and policing bills among a few examples. These costs will greatly increase if planning is granted. The clean-up bill after Dalradian leaves will run into billions which will impact on other services such as policing, health and education.

To say this area is impoverished with an unskilled workforce is patronising and untrue. Many living here has university degrees and good skilled jobs. Young people may leave and travel, but it is to see the world before coming home to settle down and raise a family.

Dalradian claim of well-paid jobs with long 12-hour shifts in dangerous working conditions, the rate of pay is only slightly above the minimum wage bracket.

Dalradian claims the goldmine will not impact on the landscape or community

The 17-storey waste rock facility will be an eyesore and seen for miles

The goldmine and all associated buildings will destroy the beauty of the area.

The community will lose Crockanboy Hill, Green road, the Mass rock and Our Lady's Holy Statue.

People will live in fear of landslides, sinkholes and damage to their homes.

Dust, Noise, Vibrations and Light pollution

Increased traffic, especially Heavy vehicles on narrow country roads.

Health implications

For the life of the mine, it will be carbon neutral.

How can a gold mine be ever considered carbon neutral. A few trees planted and water taps installed in other countries will never counter the destruction of trees and bogland. The pollution caused by the amount of diesel, electricity, chemicals and heavy metals will be devastating on the environment. Instead of the term carbon neutral, Dalradian should use Green washing for this is what they are trying to do.

The Green road is not a road, and should be abandoned:

Locals and visitors do travel along the Green road

There are many narrow roads like the Green road dotted around Greencastle, with some having green grass up the middle of them.

Agriculture machinery travels on every road in Greencastle with many tracks leading into fields, even on the main roads.

Dalradian photos do not represent the Green road, the road service and locals maintain the road, the potholes in their photos were after a wet spell when a few unknown individuals raced up and down in quad bikes and cars pulling the stone up. The Green road some days could have up to 20 cars on it and there has been no accidents or problems.

This road is of historical & cultural importance to the community.

Dalradian planning application is in keeping with FODC Local Development Plan 2030

Dalradian states themselves that FODC 15-year rule for mining is not conducive to their plans. The planning application goes against so much in the FODC LPD, it cannot be said it is in anyway keeping with the aims of LPD.

Power lines will not disrupt the landscape:

Heavy duty electricity lines, poles and associated works will have a impact on the landscape and the skyline. Ecosystems will be destroyed and damage to surrounding land and water. These heavy power lines and substation will not be needed if Dalradian planning application for a gold mine is rejected, therefore should have been a part of that application.

The removal of agriculture practices on the mining site will stop pollution of waterways.

Gold mining is well known for its pollution of waterways, throughout the world there has been numerous rivers polluted by mining activities. Dalradian in the exploratory stage has already had several serious breaches of water pollution. It only will take one accident to cause unreparable damage to our rivers.

Reading though the sheer number of documents from Dalradian, designed to be time consuming and confusing for members of the community, it is obvious that people will not have the time or resources for rebuttals on everything contained in the mountain of folders. Therefore, I must rebuttal everything this company has said. Dalradian is not

interested in protecting the environment or providing critical minerals for the Government. Their so-called community fund was stopped because they didn't get planning permission, they use terms like we will reopen it if we get planning. The benefactors of this fund were never disclosed, and any groups approached were all asked to sign a letter of support for the money. This is buying a social licence and should not be allowed. There were over 50,000 objections to this planning application not as they state 27,000. This gold mining company is prepared to say anything or do anything to get planning permission at the expense of the environment, the health and well-being of surrounding communities. I have no faith in the departments tasked with ensuring Dalradian follow the laws and regulations, already they have proved themselves unfit for the job. The departments inexperience in dealing with gold mining is plain for all to see and their dependent on Dalradian to tell them what to do is shocking. It is no wonder Dalradian is fond of claiming the departments will ensure their goldmine will follow the regulations, what Dalradian will be doing is self-governing.

Please refer to my Statements of cases for this rebuttal.

Yours sincerely

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