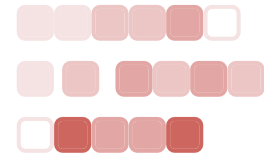


*From the Desk of Adam Zaretsky, Ph.D.*



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To Whom It May Concern at Office Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO Office <http://bggo.rivm.nl>) and the other Ministry Officials Involved... Environment, Agriculture, etc.

We are writing this letter to inquire about the approval or denial of the permit we applied for to Introduce Art Exhibition Quality Genetically Modified Organisms into the Environment. The permit was applied for in response to the call of Bioart to meet the public in a living and artistically altered way in the show Ja Natuurlijk ([ja-natuurlijk.com](http://ja-natuurlijk.com)) at the Gemeente Museum, Ine Gevers curator, den Hague. The constructs of the gene cassettes and the enigmatic nature of the Bipolar Flower are spelled out in the permit application and the public deserves to be treated to a succinct answer from the Ministry on this issue before the closing of the show in mid august. Can we get an answer or an update?

We sense that there is a stalling due to politics. We have heard that the permit may fail due to the following:

- Design issue changes from the original containment plan in the permit
- The risk of the novelty plant to the environment
- The animal byproduct embryos (parent animal care and sacrificial disposal)
- The difficult political stance of my presentation at the SUPERPLANTS symposium
- The Occupy Monsanto movement and continued resistance to GMOs in the EU and other global estates abroad
- The Biosolar Cells consortium corporate partners, managers or other interested parties blocking Ministry approval of permits not deemed industrial enough, or aesthetically future positive enough to represent big science propaganda
- Inability to do a risk benefit analysis on an artwork due to the qualitative nature of the data set pertaining to art
- Just big government dragging its big feet without any political agenda, just slow, legally blonde and indecisive?

We are asking for a detailed Ministry response to these issues. Our questions refer to the above eight reasons why we have been told that the permit is held up in interminable debate. Please answer the following questions in terms of the eight situations listed about: Did these issues come up in the debate about this permit?

If these issues were discussed, can you tell us how they were resolved?

Would you share with us the reasoning behind the decision made on this important issue?

And some particulars:

IN TERMS OF: Design issue changes from the original containment plan in the permit:

Do the seven day old zebrafish embryos need to be brought back to the lab at Leiden University to be euthanized and disposed of or can the animal byproducts be sacrificed and given preorganismic rites/garbage on-site at the GEM Museum? (This can still be arranged through the triple containment throughput.)



IN TERMS OF: The risk of the novelty plant to the environment:

Why is this plant safe or not safe for release into the environment?

How is this assessment made?

How was the Bipolar Flower, plant and pollen risk assessed?

IN TERMS OF: The animal byproduct embryos (parent animal care and sacrificial disposal):

We had heard that there was some worry about the legal definition of a zebrafish changing due to publicity around when embryos officially become whole organisms. Was this a debate factor?

IN TERMS OF: The difficult political stance of my presentation at the SUPERPLANTS symposium

Were the concepts of whole fish transplant into human gut as a sustainable health practice or green napalm as a sustainable military advance, allowed to color your decisions on permission?

For now we must go public with our requests for the Ministry Office of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO Office <http://bggo.rivm.nl>) and the other Ministry Officials Involved... Environment, Agriculture, etc. to take a stand on the issue of the permit, as exhibition time is running short. In any case, could you please address each of these eight scenarios and at least let us know if these issues came up in debate or are erroneous hearsay... and if these issues were covered, can you tell us how they were resolved and in particular, the reasoning behind the decisions (as above)? What follows is a extensive arguments, a list of links and a report on my first two years research at the artist embedded in BioSolar Cells.

Best regards,

Adam Zaretsky  
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