



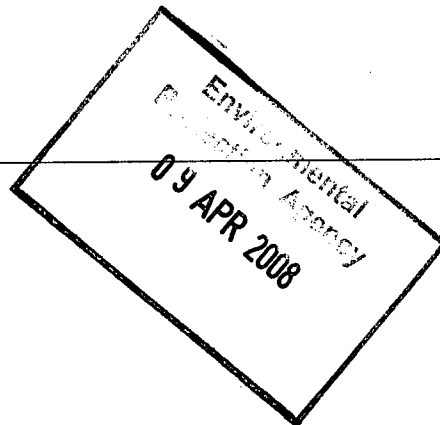
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Environmental Licensing Programme,
Office of Climate, Licensing and Resource Use,
Environmental Protection Agency,
P.O.Box 3000,
Johnstown Castle Estate,
Co. Wexford,
Ireland.

4th April 2008

Dear Sirs,

Waste Water Discharge Licence Application D0054-01-Cobh sewage discharges

We wish to object to the licensing of the discharges of raw sewage from Cobh. The total discharge has been greater than 10,000PE for a long time and the discharges should have been treated by 31st December 2005.

The present discharges are therefore in contravention of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC) and the Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations, 2001 (S.I. No.254 of 2001) and in danger of infraction proceedings and, as such, cannot, surely, be licensed until they comply with the Directive and the Regulations.

We are sorry that we are unable to comment on the EIS for the Lower Harbour Sewage Scheme, which will take and treat the effluent from Cobh, Ringaskiddy, Passage West, Monkstown, Crosshaven and Carrigaline as it is not yet available.

We must advise you that we are the holders of the Oyster Fishery (Cork Harbour) Order, 1963, which covers all those waters of the Lower Harbour to the east of a line drawn from Long Point (ESB Power Station) to Cuskinny House, Cuskinny Bay and that we have 13 km of oyster trestles on the foreshore at Rostellan and also extensive sub-tidal layings.

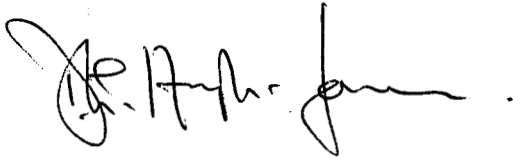
We understand that the area is shortly to be designated a Shellfish Water under the Shellfish Waters Directive (79/923/EEC) following the European Court of Justice finding in Case C-148/05 of 14th June 2007 and we trust that, in setting the consent for the future treated discharge, you will ensure that the requirements for the receiving waters under this Directive will be met in line with Article 5 of the UWWT Regulations.

[Faint, illegible text]

In his hydrodynamic survey, "*Modelling the norovirus contamination of an oyster farm in Cork Harbour*", submitted to you as supporting information for the County Council's Application for a WWDL for the Midleton WWTP discharges (D0056-01), Prof. O'Kane devotes Appendix C to looking at the effect of sewage discharges on the oyster beds covered by this Oyster Fishery Order in the Lower Harbour and concludes that, at present, the discharge of sewage from Cobh is a dominant source of pollution (figs. 8.24 – 8.31) to these beds.

Thus, until the sewage from the town of Cobh is fully treated, we trust that you will not see fit to license its numerous discharges of untreated sewage along the sea-front.

Yours sincerely,



D.L.I. Hugh-Jones

copy to Legal Unit, DG Environment, Brussels

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