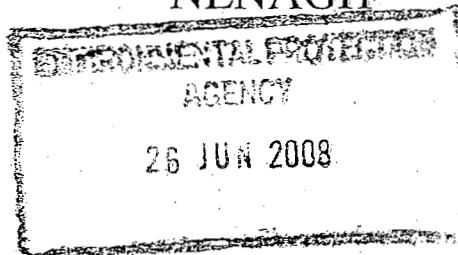


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ORMOND ANGLERS ASSOCIATION NENAGH



"Cameron"
Gortlandroe
Nenagh
24-06-2008

Mr. Dara Lynett
Director
Office of Environmental Enforcement
P.O. Box 3000
Johnstown Castle Estate
Co. Wexford

Dear Mr. Lynett,

At a recent meeting of our association, grave concern was expressed at the very poor state of the Nenagh river, over which we have the fishing rights. The water level is very low at present and the amount of algae in the water is frightening. Over enrichment by phosphates and nitrates etc. is usually a contributory factor in such a situation. I wish to highlight some of the locations, which apart from farming, may be contributing to the problem and may warrant investigation.

Clareen Stream:- This little stream enters the Nenagh river close to the swimming pool and is a relatively short stream. It runs through the property of Arrabawn Co. Op and the outflow of their effluent plant discharges directly into this stream. It then goes subterranean under part of the town and re emerges near the Abbey Machinery complex. In recent times it was discovered that all four toilets from a licensed premises in the area were discharging directly into the stream. The local authority assure us that this matter has been addressed, but we are of the opinion that many other premises in that area of the town continue to discharge into that stream.

Every environmental report commissioned by various government agencies over the years, including the most recent Lough Derg/ Lough Ree Report show this stream to be highly polluted. We have had independent samples taken from this stream and had them analysed and they confirm previous reports. We have had two incidents in recent times of the river turning "white" from some substance entering the river from this stream. The local authority were unable to satisfy themselves that it emanated from the Co. Op. Many of our members who witnessed the spill, including myself, are adamant that it was milk in some form or other.

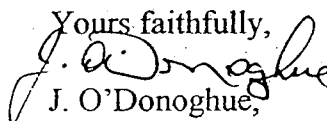
Nenagh Waste Water Treatment Plant:- The outflow from this plant also enters the Nenagh river at Kycleragh and is also a cause for concern. With the enormous building boom that has taken place in the town over the past few years, this plant is

struggling to cope with the large amount of effluent entering into it. It is listed for upgrade, but it could be years before that happens. We have had a number of incidents in recent times when raw sewerage flowed into the river from the outflow pipe very late in the evening, just before dark. We called out the Co.Co. staff to investigate, and we ourselves took samples for analysis. A" partially blocked pipe " in the system was the reason given in this instance. We have several other reports of similar incidents, but unfortunately they came a day or two after a spill and too late to investigate. Surely some system should be in place to ensure that this effluent could not enter the river, as such a discharge has the potential to wipe out the entire stock of wild brown trout downstream of this plant.

Piggeries:- There is a number of these on the Ollatrim river, a tributary of the Nenagh river and the effluent from these is always of concern. That river shows the signs of ongoing pollution, either from discharges or from too much land spreading in a confined area. The Lough Derg/Lough Ree report also highlights this problem.

A. I. B. P. Ltd: - This meat plant has, over the years been of great concern to us. Discharges of blood and fat have been witnessed by anglers, usually at night. People downstream of the plant have often had to close their windows late at night because of the smell. Early this month a large amount of "slurry" containing what appeared to be blood and other matter, gained entry to the river over a weekend when the water was a muddy colour due to torrential rain. As the water cleared the slurry became visible. Both the Fishery Board and the Co. Co. were called out. Much of the slurry got caught at the bridge over the head-race to Ballyartella Mills. It looked terrible and smelled even worse. Our club had to get a local farmer to take away and land spread two tanker loads of this to try and clear the area. The vast amount of this slurry went down the main river and because of the prevailing winds, was deposited in Dromineer, one of the main amenity areas on Lough Derg. The E P A were also advised of this incident, yet none of the agency involved were able to tie this spillage to a particular source. All, of us, and there were many, who saw this effluent and who know the area were very satisfied as to the source. It is very frustrating to find that no action is taken. It is only a matter of time before a serious "fish kill" takes place in what has been listed by the CFB as one of the top six wild brown trout fisheries in Ireland.

In view of these matters I wish to request that you would meet, as a matter of urgency, with representatives of our club to discuss the issues involved, with a view to getting some system in place to tackle the damage being done to the aquatic environment of both the Nenagh river and Lough Derg into which it flows.

Yours faithfully,

J. O'Donoghue,
Hon. Sec.