

1st September 2010

To Whom It May Concern,

My sincere apologies for the
lack of quality in the printing.

Yours sincerely,

Jason Nash.

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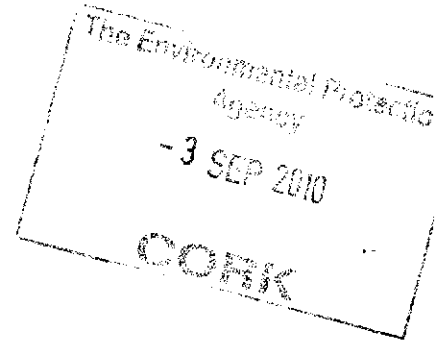
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The Environment and Protection
Agency
- 3 SEP 2010
WORK

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you on behalf of Bandon Angling Association as Environmental Officer. I wish to make a submission in respect to Dunmanway Waste Water Treatment Plant. The application license number for the Dunmanway agglomeration is D0160-01, grid reference E123994 N052577.

The need for such an application arises from both public and private concern about the current state of the Dunmanway agglomeration and its outflow pipe. Down through the years members of our club, as well as citizens of Innishannon, Bandon, Enniskeane and Dunmanway areas, have visited the site and have taken a number of photographs. Our most recent visit was on July 26th 2010. First and foremost on arriving at the plant it looks almost completely derelict. Vandalism is evident in the form of broken fences and broken beer bottles are everywhere to be seen. In the past the equipment seems to have rusted and to this day it is still the same. Before only one out of the four sprinklers was observed to be working; on our most recent visit none of them were working. The facility was at a total standstill. Sprinklers were rusted; they were leaning at different angles and they looked as if they weren't up to adequate sewage filtration. In 2004, the estimated load of nutrients discharged via the outflow pipe was 2.214 PE. BOD results for treated effluent showed that the total BOD discharge to the river every day was 21.32kg/day. Suspended discharge was 70.54kg/day. Based on this data, serious

deterioration in water quality cannot be avoided and with an ever growing population the discharge of nutrients is only going to increase. Being at the top of the Bandon system, the population of each town downriver of Dunmanway are drinking water after this is pumped into it. This causes major concern that there is a risk of contamination from cryptosporidium and other bacteria and viruses.

Walking further down the track, past the plant into the field and turning left, the outflow pipe can be located at the edge of a stream. Past observations of this outflow pipe have revealed raw sewage to be pumped out into the stream, which subsequently flows into the river Bandon. The stream was totally contaminated, the water was coloured and carried a foul, raw sewage-like odour. Acquired water samples were sent to be tested but the member of our group which took it was told that he should disinfect himself if he had been in contact with the water as it was seriously contaminated and there was no need to even test the water.

Investigating further downstream of the outflow pipe and the main Bandon River itself during times of low flow showed an overgrowth of algae which was stuck onto rocks and flowing in the main current. Observation shows that much of the river downstream of this site is very important for the spawning of both salmon and trout. Both need well oxygenated water and clean gravel for successful spawning, therefore evidence of an overgrowth of weed and algae is cause for concern. Also, the area has recently become a Special Area of Conservation for the pearl mussel. This species of pearl mussel has become very rare indeed throughout Europe and we are lucky to have it in our river. Being a filter feeder it needs the cleanest water to survive. Pearl mussels are on the IUCN Invertebrate Red Data List and are protected under the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats.

I hope you take into consideration this submission. We as a group of people love our river and want to see it in its most natural state to suit all its flora and fauna and be safe for our town's inhabitants to drink and enjoy. The stress that the Dunmanway wastewater treatment plant puts on the Bandon River is needless in this day and age.

Yours sincerely,

Jason Nash,

Bandon Angling Association.