

Sub(3)

**Marine Institute comments on Endesa Ireland proposed dredging and disposal of spoil from maintenance dredging of the cooling water intake at the Tarbert Generating Station, Co. Kerry. (EPA Reg No. S0008-01)**

Endesa Ireland proposes to carry out maintenance dredging of the cooling water intake channel at the Tarbert Electricity Generating Station, Co. Kerry.

It is proposed to remove some 10,000 tonnes of silt from the channel using a grab hopper dredger and dump this material at a site some 0.4Km from the shore. It is expected that the activity will take 5 – 6 days to complete.

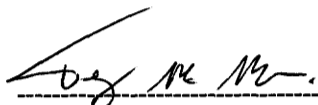
In considering the proposed activity the Marine Institute makes the following comments:

- The sediments to be removed have been chemically characterised. The results of the sediment chemistry indicate that the concentrations of contaminants would not cause concern for unconfined disposal at sea.
- The water column at both the dredge site and the dump site is naturally turbid with high levels of suspended matter. Neither the dredging nor the dumping operation will significantly impact on water column turbidity /light penetration.
- As the volume of material to be dredged and dumped is small and the activity will be of short duration it is considered that these operations are not likely to have a significant impact on the marine environment or on other legitimate users of the area including aquaculture or fishing.
- On the basis of the information provided in the Appropriate Assessment of 9<sup>th</sup> May 2011 the Marine Institute is satisfied that the dredging and dumping operation will not have a significant impact on the Conservation Objectives of the Lower River Shannon SAC and the Shannon and Fergus Estuary SPA. A suitably qualified Marine Mammal Observer should oversee the operation.

In view of the above the Marine Institute has no objections to a permit being issued and recommend that the following conditions be attached to any permit that may issue

1. The Licensee shall liaise with then Shannon Foynes Port Company, prior to and during the proposed works.
2. The Licensee shall furnish the names/registered number of all vessels involved in the operation to the Marine Survey Office in Dublin to ensure compliance with respect to Irish Load line and other relevant vessel certification.
3. The Licensee shall arrange the publication of a Marine Notice giving general description of operations and approximate dates of commencement and completion.

4. The Licensee shall arrange the publication of a local marine notice giving general description of operations and approximate dates of commencement and completion in respect of near shore and landfall cable laying operations
5. An Exclusion Zone for marine mammals (whales, dolphins and seals) shall be established, extending to 500 metres away from the operations, prior to the commencement of operations. All operations shall commence during suitable weather and visibility to ensure that this Exclusion Zone can be achieved.
6. A qualified Marine Mammal Observer shall be on site for the duration of the works to ensure that the Exclusion Zone is clear of marine mammals.
7. The Marine Mammal Observer shall undertake thirty minutes of survey prior to commencement of the works to ensure that no marine mammals are within the Exclusion Zone.
8. Works may continue if marine mammals enter the Exclusion Zone following the appropriate start up.



Dr Terry McMahon  
13 June 2011

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