

Bea Claydon

From: Tara Higgins
Sent: 24 February 2012 10:49
To: Bea Claydon
Subject: FW: DUMPING AT SEA APPLICATION REF. S0002-01

Advisory Committee Comments – Cork Institute of Technology

From: Joe Harrington
Sent: 24 February 2012 09:41
To: Tara Higgins
Cc: Joe Harrington
Subject: RE: DUMPING AT SEA APPLICATION REF. S0002-01

Tara,

In relation to DUMPING AT SEA APPLICATION REF. S0002-01 I would have the following comments:

1. For such dredge disposal and capping operations there will be a time period over which the material is exposed. Limiting this time period is important in the context of the exposure to waves and bottom currents and a two week exposure time is significant; it would be desirable to shorten this exposure time. This risk is reduced for deeper dig depths. Proposal No. 1 involved a 1.3m cell depth (or approximately 1m from the top of the dumped material to the original bed surface for a dump material thickness of 0.3m). Proposal No. 2 does not indicate the cell depth and a concern would be if this depth were to be less than for Proposal No. 1. The risk of dredge material spreading will increase if the cell depth is shallower. It would be important for the applicant to clearly indicate the proposed dig depth.
2. Locating the proposed disposal area in the deeper waters at the eastern end of the working area is welcome.
3. In terms of Proposal No. 1 it is not clear as to why the level of accuracy cannot be achieved as opposed to the confidence with which it seems that accuracy levels in Proposal No. 2 can be implemented, whilst recognising the uncertainty associated with such operations in the marine environment.
4. However the onus is on the applicant to show that Proposal No. 2 is both technically feasible and minimises potential negative impacts; the applicant should demonstrate this through a detailed statement indicating the proposed approach including dredging plant, minimum dig depths, thickness of dumped layer of dredge material, capping thickness in trench and thickness of sacrificial capping overlay.
5. On-going monitoring must be implemented during the progress of the works.

Regards,

Joe