

**Bea Claydon**

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**From:** Licensing Staff  
**Sent:** 18 January 2013 09:33  
**To:** Bea Claydon  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed disposal of spoil generated by tunneling of the Ringsend Wastewater treatment works Long sea outfall tunnel  
**Attachments:** Letter of Objection to Dublin Dumping.doc

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**From:** Wexford Receptionist  
**Sent:** 18 January 2013 09:08  
**To:** Licensing Staff  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed disposal of spoil generated by tunneling of the Ringsend Wastewater treatment works Long sea outfall tunnel

Rec'd at [info@epa.ie](mailto:info@epa.ie)

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**From:** Paul O'Gorman [<mailto:paulog@eircom.net>]  
**Sent:** 17 January 2013 20:19  
**To:** Wexford Receptionist  
**Subject:** Proposed disposal of spoil generated by tunneling of the Ringsend Wastewater treatment works Long sea outfall tunnel

Dear Sirs,

Please see attached my letter of objection to the proposed disposal of spoil by Dublin City Council in regards to the above scheme. I sincerely feel that the scale of the dumping would reverse years of effort to improve the water quality in Dublin Bay.

I speak as a diver diving these waters for 20 years or more. The return of large numbers of lobsters, crabs , prawns and other sea life has been very noticeable in the past 5 to 8 years and it would be a real shame to reverse this progress now.

Dublin Bay is becoming a much more valuable resource, both to leisure interests, and as a tourist attraction. There are now regular tours by boat with sightings of dolphins and porpoises and seals in the bay. This tourism facility would be seriously jeopardised by the proposed dumping, due to the knock-on effect of reduction of plankton by such dumping.

Having spent perhaps 100's of millions in cleaning up Dublin Bay, it would be a retrograde step to now dump millions of tons of spoil within this ecologically sensitive area.

Yours sincerely,

Paul O'Gorman

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Office of Climate Licensing & Resource Use  
PO Box 3000  
Johnstown Castle Estate  
Co Wexford

Thursday, January 17, 2013

**Re: Application submitted by Dublin City Council for the Disposal of spoil generated by tunneling of the Ringsend Wastewater treatment works Long sea outfall tunnel commencing early 2014 for a period of 3 years.**

To Whom It May Concern:

I wish to urge your office to reject the application by Dublin City Council (D.C.C) to grant a permit to allow dumping of tunneling spoil in Dublin Bay. Perhaps more than most, I am keenly aware of the fragile eco system that exists in Dublin Bay. I have seen first hand over the past number of years the result of improvements in the water quality and am witness to the abundance of marine life now resident in the Bay. Set out below are the reasons why I believe this non reversible action should not be permitted.

1. The full design and specification of the tunnel has not been decided and so it is not possible at this early stage to know the impact this project will have when all information is not available.
2. Dublin Bay is relatively shallow and the tidal streams acting within the bay do not allow for material dumped within its confines to be easily flushed away. This material if left suspended in the water column will increase water turbidity and reduce light penetration, thereby possibly affecting phytoplankton and seaweed growth and in turn the animals that depend upon these plants.
3. For divers, increased turbidity means reduced underwater visibility making diving dangerous and no longer viable.
4. I have seen a large increase in the abundance and diversity of marine life in the Bay over the past number of years. The spoil from this dumping will smother the seabed killing any benthic fauna and other reef habitats present.
5. The fact that this dumping will take place daily over a three year period will prevent any recovery of the Bay during this time and for some time afterwards.

I am aware that the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht has proposed six new marine sites for designation as Special Areas of Conservation, Dublin Bay being one of these. This plan seems to contravene the spirit of such designation.

As a regular user of Dublin Bay my club members will be directly affected by this action should it be granted permission. Not only will the safety of my members be affected but the irrevocable damage this dumping will have on the rich diversity of marine life will greatly reduce the enjoyment of our sport.

In conclusion, the spirit of our sport is to "take only photos, leave only bubbles". It seems incomprehensible that Dublin City Council would consider dumping this potentially damaging material into such a beautiful resource. I would ask that you reject this application in the interest of preserving the marine life of Dublin Bay

Kind regards

Paul O'Gorman

CC: Minister Jimmy Deenihan TD, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, 23 Kildare Street, Dublin 2

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