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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
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Sub ①

S0012-02

October 12, 2013

Mr Donal Grant

EPA

Johnstown Castle

Wexford

Dear Mr Grant

Please accept the following observations in regard to the dumping at sea licence application from the Port of Waterford.

I have had correspondence with the Port of Waterford re the noise levels during night time dredging operations on the Cheekpoint Bar. The noise during night time operation has resulted in serious sleep disturbance for my partner and me during dredging episodes. Not only is there noise but there is a sensation of vibration added to the thudding sound especially when the dredger is in reverse or thrusting about to a new course. The turning point of the dredger is directly in front of our bedroom window which like all windows in our house is double glazed. Our house is in a very noise sensitive location. But similar sleep disturbance due to noise levels at night has been reported from other houses in the village of Cheekpoint.


My correspondence with the Port of Waterford on this matter go back to 2010 and in that time I have proposed a solution to the company on several occasions, both in writing and in conversation. If night time dredging were confined to the lower bar at Duncannon where the minimum distance between the dredging site and the nearest house is about 2 kms the night time disturbance at Cheekpoint would be eradicated. I have explained to the company that I accept the necessity of dredging. I am not opposed to the principle of dredging at Cheekpoint. But to date there is no indication from the company that it is willing to alter the dredging daily time table in any way or to alleviate the situation in any way

Consequently, I feel I have no recourse at this stage but to object to a licence being given to the Port of Waterford if night time dredging at Cheekpoint is allowed under the new licence.

Ray McGrath


Cheekpoint

Co Waterford

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NB. If for any reason there is a problem in connection with the timing of this letter please let me know by email as I will be away from home in the next weeks.