

Ann Kehoe

Subject: FW: Port of Waterford Company for a Dumping at Sea Permit (Reg No. S0012-02).

From: Terry McMahon
Sent: 20 December 2013 13:01
To: Tara Higgins
Cc: margot.cronin@marine.ie; Francis X O Beirn
Subject: Port of Waterford Company for a Dumping at Sea Permit (Reg No. S0012-02).

Tara

I refer to the application by Port of Waterford Company (POWC) for a Dumping at Sea Permit (Reg No. S0012-02). In considering the proposed activity the Marine Institute makes the following comments:

1. The sediments to be removed have been chemically characterised and the results show that this material can be categorised as Class 1 (i.e. it is essentially clean). Results of analyses of samples from this area in the past have also indicated this to be the case. The result of mercury testing for one sample indicated Class 3 material. This was out of line with the other samples and with past analyses and a stored sample was sent twice for retest. The retest results were in line with each other, as well as with all remaining samples and indicated a Class 1 material. The Marine Institute is satisfied that these retest results reflect the true value. The reason for the anomalous result is not know.
2. This application is for an eight year permit from 01 Jan 2014 to 31 Dec 2021, thus explaining an apparent increase in total amount to be dumped at sea . It is noted that the applicant has requested a daily disposal limit of 30,000 tonnes. According to the information provided in section D of the application documents this daily amount was permitted in the past. The Marine Institute has no environmental concerns with this proposed limit.
3. The dredging operation will result in an increase in the levels of suspended matter in the area adjacent to the dredger. This increase in the levels of suspended matter will be temporary and localised. A report on the monitoring of turbidity carried out in the estuary in 2012 and 2013 was submitted with the application (*IDS Monitoring, June 2013: A Review of Water Quality Monitoring Data around Cheek Point Dredge Site, Waterford Port with focus on dredging periods in 2012 and 2013*). The results show that the increase in the levels of suspended matter as result of dredging is within the natural range of variability of suspended matter in the estuary.
4. There are number of licenced aquaculture sites in the Waterford Harbour area. There will be no direct impact on these sites from the dredging. Given that the material to be dredged can be classified as Category 1 and that any increase in the levels of suspended matter will be temporary and localised, and will be within the range of natural variability, significant adverse impacts on aquaculture are not considered likely.

5. Parts of the area to be dredged are within, or adjacent to, the Waterford Harbour Shellfish Growing Waters area designated under European Communities (Quality of Shellfish Waters) Regulations 2006 (SI No 268 of 2006). Given that the material to be dredged can be classified as Category 1 and that any increase in the levels of suspended matter will be temporary and localised, and will be within the range of natural variability, impacts on the quality standards required under these Regulations are not considered likely.
6. The dump site is located circa 5.5Km south of the boundary of the Waterford Harbour Shellfish Growing Waters area and impacts on the quality standards in the Shellfish waters area as a result of dumping at sea operations are not considered likely.
7. Given that some of the material is clean sand, particularly in the Duncannon Channel area, the Marine Institute is of the view that POWC should be required to continue to explore environmentally, technically and economically feasible options for beneficial reuse.
8. On the basis of the above the Marine Institute has no objections to a Dumping at Sea Permit being granted.

Terry

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