

Patrick Doyle

From: Licensing Staff
Subject: Submission No 276 Bernardine Nic Giolla Phádraig

-----Original Message-----

From: bergp@eircom.net [mailto:bergp@eircom.net]
Sent: 26 August 2015 18:21
To: Licensing Staff
Subject: Submission Re: DAS application by Dublin Port Company

Licensing | Environmental Protection Agency licensing@epa.ie

A dhuine uasail,

I write to you to express my concern about and opposition to the recent proposal of Dublin Port to undertake a dredging project that will see 9.7 million tonnes of dredge waste dumped into Dublin Bay.

The whole project, it seems, has been poorly thought through. I respectfully ask the EPA to consider the following points:

1. Firstly, it is important that the dredging that occurs does not endanger the UNESCO biosphere that includes much of Dublin Bay. What, if any, safeguards can be put in place to protect the biosphere of the Bay? Who will take responsibility if it is negatively impacted upon or, indeed, destroyed (the EPA, Councillors, Dublin Port, Other?) and what sanctions will be imposed on whom if things go wrong?
2. On a further note, the presence of extremely large cruise ships or 'huge floating cities', as they have been rightly described, in Dublin Port (the reason for the dredging in the first place, I understand) will in all likelihood result in the dumping of massive amounts of waste (the equivalent of the waste produced by the population of a town) on an ongoing nightly basis into the Bay. What plans are in place to enact specific legislation to protect the biosphere from the impact of such dumping and to enforce strict regulations on the Cruise Ship companies?
3. Tourists come to Dublin to see the city in its entirety and the Bay is part of that. If the Bay is negatively impacted on by this 'development' then it stands to reason that the whole project will be negatively impacted upon - metaphorically speaking, a case of 'biting off the hand that feeds you'.
4. Who will compensate the residents of the area if a foul smell invades their homes and villages and ultimately negatively impacts on their quality of life?

I suggest there is an opportunity here for the EPA to make positive world headlines by stipulating that Dublin Port, the international Cruise Ship Companies and other relevant parties devise ways and means to make the project work by caring for the environment on which it will feed - such a result would not only benefit Dublin longterm but would serve as a model and template for sustainable development of ports and Bays in other areas of the world where equal challenges exist. We are the generation who must bring our creativity, scientific knowledge and modern technology to bear to ensure environmental sustainability and citizens' rights are protected when we talk about development.

Yours sincerely,

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