

Grainne Power

From: Licensing Staff
Subject: Submission No 537 Tom Conroy

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

From:
Sent: 28 August 2015 16:26
To: Licensing Staff
Subject: Submission Re: DAS application by Dublin Port Company

Licensing | Environmental Protection Agency licensing@epa.ie

I am very concerned at and I voice my strong 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.

Whilst I welcome that the proposal calls for the excavation and restoration of Graving Dock No.1, (which should never have been infilled in the first place) this dredging will disturb highly contaminated material from Alexandra Basin West which it is proposed to use as infill at Berths 53/53 and at Graving Dock No.2.

Apart from the folly of filling in these berths and the Graving Dock 2, which is an important element of our industrial heritage, I have serious concerns about the leakage of contaminated material, especially heavy metals, despite the claims that it will be "treated". Furthermore, the amount of material to be excavated from Alexandra Basin West would seem to be far larger than the infill needs at berth 52/54. What will happen with any unused contaminated material?

I also object to the dredging of what is described as "moderately contaminated material" from the Liffey channel, which will be dumped at the Burford Bank area. This material will not be treated and will definitely leach into the marine environment.

Apart from the contamination, I also object to the damaging effects of noise and vibration that this long term project will have on mammals, fish, sea life and bird populations.

More danger lies in the "potential for habitat severance or fragmentation where dredging will be required in the outer part of Dublin Bay (which overlaps with the Rockabill to Dalkey cSAC). This gives rise to the potential for direct noise and physical disturbance impacts within the cSAC, arising from the dredging works and disposal of dredge." (Natura Impact Statement, page 34)

I also object to the massive plumes of silt, some contaminated with heavy metals, that will affect Dublin Bay because of the dredging.... No amount of hydrology modelling can predict just how weather and tidal conditions will interact and I think that the DPC Natura Impact Statement is woefully underestimating how dangerous this will be to the flora and fauna of the bay. The contaminated water will affect the vision and smell of feeding birds and animals.

Dublin Bay is Ireland's only designated biosphere. It has particular significance for our wildlife, recreational activities and brings hundreds of thousands of visitors to the area each year. It is crucial that this area is protected from potential harm caused by the dumping this amount of dredge waste.

Please do not grant this licence.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Conroy

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