

Patrick Doyle

From: Licensing Staff
Subject: Submission No 663 Joan & Rodney Bacon

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

From:
Sent: 30 August 2015 17:09
To: Licensing Staff
Subject: Submission Re: DAS application by Dublin Port Company

Licensing | Environmental Protection Agency licensing@epa.ie

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

If this dumping goes ahead it will show that Dublin Bay being declared a UNESCO biosphere reserve and a Natura 2000 site, has absolutely no value at all.

The redistribution of such a vast amount of sediment and dredge waste could have potentially disastrous effect of the epifauna of the bay and could negatively impact on the protected wildlife species the bay is famous for.

As the material being dumped is called Sands & Mud, the mud will form a plume and envelope the entire bay as dumping is planned for all states of the Tide and all weathers 24/7 there will be no recovery time.

There has been no research done on the effects the dumping will have on the inside of Bull Island. This could lead to the blocking of Sutton Creek and the channel. It can be clearly seen at the moment that the Blue Lagoon is silting at a great rate and the dumping as a result of this planned dredging could finally be the end of the Blue Lagoon.

Some of the materials to be dumped could contain contaminated materials. The effect of this on the wildlife in this area could be devastating. This area is one of the most important winter feeding grounds for birds in all of Europe and as such it is vital that it is protected.

As the dumping is planned for both day and night in all weathers. This goes against best practice for dumping at sea. When dumping at sea best practice dictates that it is only carried out in day light in winds of less than force 4. Dumping in day light only would ensure some protection for mammal observation on the barge as the dump site is a recognised foraging ground for them.

Where as I understand the need for progress and the benefits it can potentially bring, it should not and must not be at the expense of the environment. Once the environment is damaged it can be almost, if not impossible to reverse the damage, so surely this would not be progress on any level.

Dublin Bay is a most valued natural amenity that is enjoyed by all. It is vitally important that it is protected for future generations and for the marine life.

Yours sincerely,

Joan & Rodney Bacon
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