

From: [Licensing Staff](#)
To: [Grainne Power](#)
Subject: FW:
Date: 23 March 2016 08:28:41

From: roisin coyle [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 March 2016 23:30
To: Licensing Staff
Subject:

[REDACTED]

Environmental Licensing Programme
Office of Environmental Sustainability
EPA, PO Box 3000,
Johnstown Castle Estate,
Co Wexford

22nd March 2016

RE: Application by Dublin Port Company for Dumping at Sea Permit

Dear Sir/Madam.

I write to you to express my concern and opposition to Dublin Port Company's application for a licence to dump over 6 million tons of contaminated dredge spoil at Burford Bank (Ref. No. S0024-01) in 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.

UNESCO recognised the importance of Dublin Bay by designating North Bull Island as a Biosphere because of its rare and internationally important habitats and species of wildlife. To support sustainable development, UNESCO's concept of a Biosphere has evolved to include not just areas of ecological value but also the areas around them and the communities that live and work within these areas. There have since been additional international and national designations, covering much of Dublin Bay, to ensure the protection of its water quality and biodiversity.

To fulfil these broader management aims for the ecosystem, the Biosphere was expanded in 2015. The Biosphere now covers Dublin Bay, reflecting its significant environmental, economic, cultural and tourism importance, and extends to over 300 km². Over 300,000 people live within the newly enlarged Biosphere.

Dublin Bay Biosphere contains three different zones, which are managed in different ways:

The core zone of Dublin Bay Biosphere comprises 50 km² of areas of high natural value. Key areas include the Tolka and Baldoyle Estuaries, Booterstown Marsh, Howth Head, North Bull Island, Dalkey Island and Ireland's Eye.

The buffer zone comprises 82 km² of public and private green spaces such as parks, greenbelts and golf courses, which surround and adjoin the core zones.

The transition zone comprises 173 km² and forms the outer part of the Biosphere. It includes residential areas, harbours, ports and industrial and commercial areas.

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

I am very concerned about the potential for the release of hydrogen sulphide in the area around the dredging. Similar emissions of hydrogen sulphide were reported in Cork and that operation was 10 times smaller than this proposal. Further to these potential emissions is the possibility of dredging up heavy metal deposits often found in shipping ports. Such deposits are often harmless when trapped in the sediment but could prove disastrous if disturbed and then redistributed into the coastal waters.

Yours
Roisin Coyle

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.
For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

*For inspection purposes only.
Consent of copyright owner required for any other use.*