



To: Ciara Maxwell, EPA
From: Margot Cronin, MI
RE: Port of Waterford Dumping at Sea application, 2018
EPA Ref: S0012-03
Date: 17 April, 2018

Dear Ciara,

Background: This application is for an eight-year permit to dredge and dump at sea approximately 442 500 tonnes annually from maintenance dredging, with a contingency of 175 000 tonnes.

Sediment sampling and chemical analyses were carried out last year based on a recommended sampling and analyses plan from MI. I've reviewed the results of the sediment chemistry. Unfortunately, on this occasion the selected lab neglected to include testing for lead, however, as previous analyses from 2008 and 2013 did not show any exceedance of lead above the lower action level, I'm satisfied that this would not preclude the disposal of the material at sea. As with these previous analyses, these sediments are categorised as class 1 (i.e. essentially clean. From the perspective of dredged material contamination, I have no objections to the dumping at sea of this material at the designated dumpsite.

In line with OSPAR requirements, further testing of the material should be carried out at three-year intervals throughout the duration of the permit. MI can provide sampling and analysis plans, if required.

The material to be dredged is clean, predominantly fine, sand. Further investigation into availability of alternatives for this valuable resource should be encouraged, especially given the large quantities involved.

Best regards,

Margot Cronin