



Submission

Submitter:	Brendan Hennessy and family
Submission Title:	Brendan Hennessy and family
Submission Reference No.:	S005532
Submission Received:	07 June 2019

Application

Applicant:	Dairygold Co-Operative Society Ltd and TINE Ireland Ltd
Reg. No.:	P1103-01

See below for Submission details.

Attachments are displayed on the following page(s).

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From: Brendan Hennessy [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 June 2019 18:43
To: Licensing Staff <licensing@epa.ie>
Subject: Ref: P1103-01 Dairygold

A Chara,

Please find attached my family's objection to the granting of a license by the EPA to Dairygold for the discharge of waste materials into Cork's Upper Harbour.

Is mise le meas,

Brendan Hennessy

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Brendan Hennessy & family,

7th June, 2019

Environmental Protection Agency,
Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford
Cork.

Re: Planning Application: P1103-01 Dairygold

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of myself and my family I wish to object to the granting of a license for the above applicant to discharge significant amounts of bi-product waste into the upper reaches of Cork Harbour.

This objection recognises the economic benefits of the proposed factory to East Cork, but also the consequent inevitable and long-term damage to the upper harbour. It is, imaginably and regrettably, the balance between these factors that led the planning authorities to grant planning permission.

However, the use of Cork's upper harbour as the discharge point for 3000-4000 cubic meters of treated waste water is neither in keeping with the status afforded to the area by Cork County Council as a natural habitat nor with good overall management of Cork harbour in general.

It is our understanding that while the waste water will be treated this does not mean that the discharge is clean water, but rather grey water, including organic material and fats. We note grey water is a common term to describe impure water. This raises significant concerns for us as local residents, recreational harbour users and the parents of future generations.

Common sense has a place in this debate. We therefore object to the granting of a license on the following basis:

Our objection therefore is to the:

- The use of Rathcoursey as a discharge point
- The implied use of Cork Harbour as a natural drain for significant quantities of waste water.

Our objection is on the basis that:

- Rathcoursey pumphouse as a discharge point is totally unsuitable to the demands, volumes and risks associated with the project.
- Conflicting evidence whether discharge waste water will flow out and well beyond the mouth of Cork harbour or will remain in fact in the confines of the Harbour
- Local knowledge combined with meteorological evidence strongly reinforces the point that floating materials – and it is understood that the discharge may also float on the water surface – will be subject to tidal currents and wind direction (the latter mainly south westerly) and will therefore infiltrate the upper harbour thoroughly including depositing waste material on the shoreline and sea bed
- There is concern from the scientific community that the discharge will be directly harmful to wildlife and marine life, including on their ecological cycle and habitats.
- That the project, be it solely or additionally, will be adding waste material to Cork harbour which negate the present and future economic benefits of domestic and international tourism associated with the recreational use of the harbour.

- That a successful application would contravene Cork County Councils designation of the special area of conservation in Cork harbour, and that such contravention would bring Cork County Council into legal dispute.

We further note that as homeowners directly on the path of the proposed pipeline that no effort was made by the applicants to inform us directly of the application and its implications. Such inaction is to be regretted.

We acknowledge the potential economic importance of the project to East Cork, but we ask to what cost for East Cork now and East Cork in the future?

It is our hope that the applicants, working with Cork County Council, can find a suitable, environmentally sound, alternative to this project. Should such an alternative be found, the applicants must be mindful of their obligations to the local community and the environment as well as showing respect to the unique importance of Cork Harbour.

To conclude, but also to repeat, the discharge of significant amounts of bi-product waste into the upper reaches of Cork Harbour is, by definition, contrary to environmental good practice and defies common sense.

Sincerely,

Brendan Hennessy

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