



Submission

Submitter:	Miss Gwenda Young
Submission Title:	ObjectiontoDairygoldWastedDischargearRathcoursey
Submission Reference No.:	S005662
Submission Received:	21 August 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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FAO: Environmental Protection Agency

Re: Licence application by Dairygold Co-Operative Society Ltd and TINE Ireland Ltd

Register Number:

P1103-01

I wish to lodge an objection to Dairygold's proposed plan to discharge millions of litres, per day, of "FOGs" in a pipeline running from Mogeely to Rathcoursey, with the outlet pipe at Rathcoursey/East Ferry. I note that previous planning objections by many residents and concerned groups to Cork County Council were disregarded and that waste pipes are currently being laid under the road, even in the absence of a licence by Dairygold.

I hope now that EPA will now step in to block this project by refusing to grant a licence. As a resident of Rathcoursey East, I am gravely concerned that an area of outstanding natural beauty, and one that is of national renown, should be subjected to contamination from Dairygold's plans to pump up to 4 million litres daily of waste water, which will include – by the Company's own admission – Fats, Oils and Grease that will not be dissolved and that will remain on the water's surface. The proposed location of the outlet pipe is within an area of water and shore that has been designated, under S.I. No. 237/2010 - European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds) (Cork Harbour Special Protection Area 004030)) Regulations 2010, as a Special Protection site, home to a diversity of wild birds, fish (a significant and protected seabass population) and sea mammals (including regularly sighted dolphin pods, seals, and otters). Dairygold's claim that the tide will take the effluent out to sea cannot be guaranteed, given the natural vagaries of tides, currents, wind etc. This proposal appears to undermine the State's and EU's Special protection order, put in place to ensure "the survival and reproduction" of species listed below (taken from the IrishStatuteBooks.ie), and if successful will, one assumes, constitute an activity "Requiring Consent" ("14. Any activity which destroys habitat, except normal maintenance activities as defined in approved farm plans ... Please note that operations/activities other than those listed at Schedule 4 to these Regulations, such as effluent discharge, planning permission, aquaculture, fishing or forestry require a licence or permission from the appropriate consent authority").

In addition to the likely impact that a daily discharge of up to 4 million litres will have on the bird and marine wildlife population, one cannot underestimate the effect it may have on the

human populations. Such a proposal will profoundly undermine the status of Rathcoursey East/East Ferry as a recreational site, one listed under the East Cork Trail /South and East Cork Tourism (which especially emphasizes areas of outstanding natural beauty and wildlife, with this specific area regarded as one of the jewels of East Cork's crown); as a growing EcoTourism site; and a locale in which niche tourism businesses, that include boat hire and bass fishing, flourish. It cannot be contested that the estuary's natural beauty, and its status as a county and national "attraction", will be irrevocably diminished by the presence of FOGs which, as Dairygold admits, are "lighter than water and ... spread outwards" across the water's surface (a body of water that is tidal). Please, can we do the right thing here for our generations and for future ones, and not succumb to pressure to generate additional income for a conglomerate?

I object in the strongest terms to this proposed plan and urge the EPA to refuse the licence.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Gwenda Young

Bird Species

/Scientific Name	Common Name
Tachybaptus ruficollis	Little Grebe
Podiceps cristatus	Great Crested Grebe
Phalacrocorax carbo	Cormorant
Ardea cinerea	Grey Heron
Tadorna tadorna	Shelduck
Anas penelope	Wigeon
Anas crecca	Teal
Anas acuta	Pintail
Anas clypeata	Shoveler
Mergus serrator	Red-breasted Merganser
Haematopus ostralegus	Oystercatcher
Pluvialis apricaria	Golden Plover
Pluvialis squatarola	Grey Plover
Vanellus vanellus	Lapwing
Calidris alpina	Dunlin

Limosa limosa Black-tailed Godwit
Limosa lapponica Bar-tailed Godwit
Numenius arquata Curlew
Tringa totanus Redshank
Larus ridibundus Black-headed Gull
Larus canus Common Gull
Larus fuscus Lesser Black-backed Gull
Sterna hirundo Common Tern

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