



### Submission

Submitter:	Mr Sabrina Joyce-Kemper
Submission Title:	Ringsend insufficient data in application SJK
Submission Reference No.:	S011500
Submission Received:	14 February 2024

### Application

Applicant:	Uisce Éireann
Reg. No.:	D0034-02

See below for Submission details.

Attachments are displayed on the following page(s).

Inspector Aimie Cranch  
Environmental Licensing Programme  
Office of Environmental Sustainability  
Environmental Protection Agency  
PO Box 3000 Johnstown Castle Estate  
Wexford

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024  
Re: Licence Application Reference No. D0034-02

Dear Ms. Cranch

Having reviewed the licence application further, I wish to make the following comments.

1. The most current public notice and newspaper notice, is not in accordance with the statutory requirements under legislation in relation to where the application can be viewed.

2. The NIS and EIA are not up to date. The completion date for both the NIS and EIA predate the application by 5 years, both reports are not in accordance with either EIA Directive or Habitats Directive nor the CIEEM advice note on the lifespan of ecological reports and surveys (See appendix 1). The CIEEM advice note states that if a report is over three years old;

*“The report is unlikely to still be valid and most, if not all, of the surveys are likely to need to be updated (subject to an assessment by a professional ecologist, as described above).”*

3. Both the NIS and EIAR specifically relate to The Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project. The EIAR and NIS are prepared for a planning application not a WWDL and should be completely updated to reflect the fact that this application relates to the WWDL. The EIAR and NIS needs to assess the worst case scenario under the combined approach.

4. The updated application/ NIS and EIAR shall take into account the retrospective impact of all unauthorised discharges eg. Doldrum bay. It is noted from the file that ABP did not carry out an EIA or AA on the Doldrum bay discharge as part of planning appeal 315902 as was required by law. Particularly as this discharge was NOT licenced to discharge to Dublin Bay under D0034-01.

5. The modelling is not as claimed, calibrated/ validated. It is clear that storm and weather events have not been modelled and as such account for large discrepancies between the monitored actual data and the modelled data. EIAR and AA must be carried out on precise scientific information and excluding the more frequent storm events (that Ireland is experiencing more frequently) is a major lacuna in the data.

6. Monitored data from the inner Tolka estuary and landside estuary section of Dollymount has not been validated. Due to the potentially eutrophic nature of these areas, validation by comparing monitored data is required.

7. The Irish Sea waterbody is excluded from monitoring and assessment despite the fact that Ringsend and the proposed GDD project will cumulatively impact this waterbody. therefore there is no validation of the model and therefore the impact in these areas.

8. The applicant appears to have using a new company to model the discharges rather than DHI. The baseline has also been changed to a “New Normal”. This study has used 2019 – 2021 as a more up-to-date reference for the baseline. This is updated from the previous modelling conducted by DHI

which used 2013 – 2015 as a reference baseline. This is an unusual thing to do. It raises issues of shifting baselines and of setting a new baseline at a time when the plant was continuously non compliant in its discharges. This choice is particularly strange as the applicant uses the DHI baseline data for the modelling of the Shanganagh discharges so it lacks consistency.

9. There appears to be an error the declared figures in relation to decay rates in 2.2.3 of the modelling report. In fact there are a number of discrepancies in this report. I recommend that a full technical review and document suitability assessment of the EIAR/NIS and modelling be carried out as is the case in relation to aquaculture licences where the Marine engineering section take this role.

10. I may be incorrect but there does not appear to be any model run for current mass emissions and the model runs for future mass emissions exclude bacterial substances (EC & IE) for some reason. With the proximity of bathing waters and SAC's SPA,s this constitutes lacunae in the assessment.

11. The model impacts in the application, are assessed against Environmental Quality Standards (EQS) as prescribed by the Surface Water Regulations for Ireland (Amended) (IG, 2019) and the Bathing Water Regulations (IG, 2008). these regulations are outdated and the updated regulations should be used for assessment against the model.

12. I am not an expert in water modelling but as a non expert it is clear that there are issues with Parameters / assumptions and the interpretation of the data. An independent interrogation of the modelling report that can help inform a new report and include a model run of the impact of all agglomeration discharges on the network as it is clear that the models have no regard for cumulative impact of discharges (just what happens on a single day. No model for a process failure over say 3 days, no cumulative impact of discharges over a year as the discharge does not simply disappear. Microplastic, virus, PFAS (Dublin Airport monitors is showing toxic levels of runoff that may be etc will continue to accumulate. There are also no impact on the waters in Baldoyle estuary from CSOs from this agglomeration that discharge directly into it.

13. The applicant failed to identify impacts of POPs, and pollutants of emerging concern on cetaceans and pinnepeds and birds, using up to date surveys and recent scientific data on impacts.

I request that the EPA request further and updated surveys and modelling data that is in accordance with the Habitats Directive Water Framework Directive, EIA Directive and CIEEM guidelines. The whole application will also require proper public notice and consultation.

Yours Sincerely

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Co Dublin.