

From: margot.cronin@marine.ie
To: [Jim Moriarty](#)
Subject: Aughinish DaS S0026-02
Date: Thursday 28 March 2024 15:25:15
Attachments: [Aughinish 2024 MI obs.pdf](#)

Hi Jim,

Attached are MI comments for Aughinish DaS application S0026-02.
If you need clarification on anything, let me know.

All the best, Margot

*Margot Cronin | Marine Institute
Rinville, Oranmore, Galway, Ireland*

*Tel: +353 91 387200 | +353 91 387251 | +353 83 344 3280
www.marine.ie*

Marine Institute

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Foras na Mara

Tá an t-eolas sa ríomhphost seo, agus in aon cheangaltáin leis, faoi rún agus tá sé dírithe ar an bhfaighteoir/na faighteoirí beartaithe amháin agus níor cheart ach dóibh siúd é a úsáid. D'fhéadfadh an t-eolas seo a bheith faoi réir pribhléid dhlíthiúil agus ghairmiúil. Mura tusa faighteoir beartaithe an ríomhphoist seo, níor cheart duit an teachtaireacht seo, nó aon chuid di, a úsáid, a nochtadh, a chóipeáil, a dháileadh nó a choinneáil. Má fuair tú an ríomhphost seo go hearráideach, cuir an seoltóir ar an eolas láithreach agus scríos gach cóip den ríomhphost seo ó chóra(i)s do ríomhaire, le do thoil. [Ár bPolasaí Príobháideachta.](#)



To: Jim Moriarty, EPA
From: Margot Cronin, MI
RE: Aughinish Dumping at Sea application, 2024
EPA Ref: S0026-02
Date: 26/03/2024

Dear Jim,

Background: This application is for an eight-year permit to dredge and dump at sea sediment annually arising from maintenance dredging. Approximately 53,846 tonnes annually are proposed to be disposed of at the Foynes designated dumpsite, currently used by SFPC. Approximately 29,710 tonnes annually are proposed to be plough dredged.

Sediment sampling and chemical analyses were carried in November 2023 based on a recommended sampling and analyses plan from MI. The chemistry results demonstrate no parameters exceeding the lower action levels. These concur with the results of the January 2021 AER testing, which also did not show any exceedance above the lower action level. These sediments are categorised as Class 1 (i.e. essentially clean).

Titanium and iron concentrations were also provided but are not included in the dumping at sea assessment process. Irish guidance levels do not exist for titanium or iron in marine sediment. In the absence of an assessment procedure, iron concentrations from this report were compared with historic data from marine sediment samples from the Shannon Estuary and suggest that the Aughinish data are within normal iron ranges for marine sediment in that location. There appears to no background data for titanium in Irish marine sediment and so a assessment could not be made. Information from the ECHA¹ website advises that “*Sediment toxicity tests reveal that micro-sized TiO₂ is not chronically toxic to sediment organisms up to concentrations of at least 100,000 and 14,989 mg/kg dw (nominal) in freshwater and marine sediment, respectively*”. The value of 14,989 mg/kg dw in marine sediment is well in excess of titanium concentrations measured in the Aughinish sediment.

The material to be dredged is predominantly silt/fine sand. Based on existing guidance for assessment of dredged material for disposal at sea, I’m satisfied that the sediment chemistry alone would not preclude the disposal of the material at the designated dumpsite, in the absence of alternative feasible use.

In line with OSPAR requirements, further testing of the sediment should be carried out at three-year intervals throughout the duration of the permit.

Best regards,

Margot Cronin

¹ ECHA is the European Chemicals Agency

<https://www.echa.europa.eu/web/guest/registration-dossier/-/registered-dossier/15560/6/3>