



Ms Aideen McCabe
RPS Planning & Environment
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Northern Ireland

S February 2013

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RPS		RECEIVED	
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BELFAST		P.D.	
F.A.O.	RECEIPT	F.A.O.	RECEIPT
P.M.	<i>AME</i>	EIA	<i>[Signature]</i>
Job No. N1328			

Dear Ms McCabe

I refer to your correspondence addressed to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Simon Coveney, TD regarding the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) by RPS relating to the construction of shore based facilities associated with the provision of a vehicle ferry across Carlingford Lough between Greenore, Co Louth and Greencastle, Co Down.

The Department has been requested to identify, from its perspective, the following:

- (i) information held that may be relevant to the preparation of an EIS
- (ii) issues that should be addressed in the EIS.

In respect of (i) above the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) have aquaculture licence information on GIS database for all shellfish farms licensed on the Co. Louth side of Carlingford Lough and this can be made available on written request.

In respect of (ii) above the Department requests that the following items should be addressed in any Environmental Impact Statement prepared in respect of this project:

- A full and detailed description of the scale, nature and extent of all aspects of the development, a schedule of works including timescales and phasing arrangements. The sediment movement implications of building a solid slipway on the Greenore side should be considered.
- An outline of the main alternative locations studied and alternative forms of development design, scale and construction methodologies considered prior to the selection of the preferred development option.
- Details of the construction methods and materials that would be used to construct the proposed development.
- Consideration of alternative orientations or locations focusing more on the existing commercial port area - There are licensed shellfish farms located within 400 to 500 metres of proposed slip development location. These would need to be fully taken account of in assessing possible impacts of the proposal and the design of mitigation measures. It is

noted that the orientation of the proposed slipway is likely to introduce more vessel movement to the southeast of Greenore than would have been the case heretofore. It is queried whether it is appropriate to be significantly widening the zone of direct influence of vessel movements in this way and in this direction.

- Information on the flora and fauna (including fisheries) in the receiving environment and surrounding area and details on their conservation status and ecological importance.
- An assessment of the impact on human activities, including fishing and aquaculture activities, during the construction and operational phases of the development. The question should be addressed as to whether the development has potential to introduce new or additional discharges to the local marine environment - use of antifoulants, potential for waste generation from on board vessel toilets, potential for oil spillage, runoff from deck and slipway etc. should be considered
- A clear description of the measures envisaged in order to avoid, reduce and, if possible, remedy any significant adverse effects identified. Shellfish aquaculture is an important and well established beneficial usage of the waters on the south side of Carlingford Lough – with suspended oyster farming being particularly important in the southeast of the Lough. The proximity of the proposed development to licensed and active shellfish farms to east and west of Greenore would need to be fully taken account of in assessing possible impacts of the proposal and the design of mitigation measures.

Any further correspondence relating to this project can be forwarded directly to Foreshore Co-ordination Unit, Aquaculture & Foreshore Management Division, National Seafood Centre, Clonakilty, Co Cork.

Yours sincerely

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Kevin Galligan
Private Secretary