



*2/2/22*

My name is Samantha Langlois. I live in Belfast. I have a ~~Masters in Environmental Studies~~ home school my children and run our small farm. My mother was born in Belfast and grew up here as did my grandmother, my great-grandmother and my great-great-grandmother. I was not born here or nor did I grow up here but I choose to live here. My kids are 6th generation Belfast.

There are so many pieces to the puzzle that is the Nordic Aquafarms <sup>thing</sup> proposed project. I am concerned about many of them. *More than I can account for in 3 minutes.*

I am concerned about water usage. In Belfast we are blessed with abundant clean water. It is why many of us live here. It is our precious resource. This ~~proposed~~ project would draw surface water from the Little River watershed. I live on the Little River upstream of this ~~proposed~~ project. My family and I rely on our well for water. I am concerned as to how this project would affect the Little River watershed and my well and that of my neighbors. If my well is negatively impacted by this project, how much would it cost me to hire a hydrologist to prove that Nordic Aquafarms was responsible for any damage to my well as is required by law in order to receive any sort of ~~compensation~~ <sup>restoration?</sup> The only thing we can count on about climate change is that everything is becoming more unpredictable. Just because we have abundant clean water now, doesn't mean we should give it all away.

I am concerned about effluent in the Bay. Just because we have been dumping nitrogen into the Penobscot River and Belfast Bay for decades doesn't mean that adding more is a good idea. I wish these hearings were about installing a Green Machine wastewater treatment plant that mimics the processes of the nature world, by using microorganisms, algae, plants and gravel and sand filtration to clean sewage water and return clean drinkable water back to the aquifer, rather than about just adding more pollutants to our Bay. *How many times have we heard that technology will prevent any problems? Historically technologies fail and problems happen.* I am concerned about disease. This project depends on surface water from the Little River watershed. With surface water comes bacteria. It isn't really a matter of if there will be an incidence of fish disease in this facility, it's just a matter of when. We already know that animals raised in confinement get sick. Outbreaks of disease have to be treated - perhaps with antibiotics, perhaps with antivirals, perhaps with chemical cleaners - will this project have filters sufficient to completely remove residue from antibiotics, antivirals, cleaners, and vaccines from the effluent or will all that get dumped into the Bay too? *How will the Bay be affected by these pollutants?*

*Exports disappear from N. Stream  
Maine's rivers are filled with dioxins, PCBs and Mercury because technology failed.*

I am concerned about the carbon footprint of this project. According to an extensive carbon footprint report compiled by local engineer Jim Merkel, this project will produce between ~~550,000 and 750,000~~ metric tons of carbon-dioxide equivalents (CO2e) to the atmosphere each year. This is equivalent to adding ~~120,000 to 165,000~~ cars to the roads. It would increase Belfast's carbon footprint 5 to 7 times. Belfast's city council recently signed onto the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy because they are, theoretically, concerned about our carbon footprint. I don't see how our city council can be both invested in reducing our carbon footprint and supportive of this project at the same time.

I am concerned about water temperature. I have read in Richard Poldosky's testimony to the ME Board of Environmental Protection (Mr. Poldosky is the Founder and CEO of Ecology and Technology, an environmental science consulting firm in Camden) that the discharge waters from this project may average between 15 and 20 degrees warmer than the ambient temperature of Belfast Bay. According to Poldosky, by Nordic's own admission this discharge of thermally charged water will create a permanent thermal anomaly in the vicinity surrounding the discharge pipe which, depending on the plumes movement with time, tide, wind, and wave, may impact 1-2 miles north/south and 1 mile east/west and cover an area equivalent to between 1 and 2 square miles, equal to about 700-1500 football fields. It is well

understood in environmental science that thermal pollution has profound impacts on the ecosystems where they occur. How will the increase in water temperature impact our Bay?

here in Belfast

I was recently at a local issues forum that was put on for local homeschooled teens so they could learn first hand about this project. One of our city council members announced to this group that he would not support Nordic Aquafarm's proposed project if it wasn't for the tax benefit for the town. He went on to apologize to the kids assembled for the environmental damage that has been caused by his generation ~~and that will have be dealt with by following generations.~~ One ~~very~~ brave teenage girl responded to his comment with, "an apology is not enough". I would go beyond that to say that an apology on the heels of business as usual, is like a slap in the face. It's just talk. We need action. We are looking down the barrel of climate change. We can't afford to continue to put economic growth before environmental health and protection. That is how we have gotten ourselves into a climate emergency, ~~into the 6th mass extinction, this is how we got to sea level rise, desertification, wildfires, water shortage, crop failure, extreme weather events and the reality of climate refugees.~~ ~~in the first place.~~

This project is a huge experiment. Let's not trust our children's future to an experiment.

Thank ya.