

Dear Members of the DEP,

My name is Ridgely Fuller and I live in Belfast, Maine where I have been following the process of Nordic Aqua Farms since its inception several years ago. Over that time I have attended all the information meetings of NAF and become increasingly disturbed by a number of factors concerning its presence in Belfast.

- I believe it has not demonstrated any financial capacity to be able to develop let alone sustain its existence as a long term business in our community. NAF has never released any documents related to confirmed investors nor a meaningful financial plan. I am especially concerned that it will not consider and 3<sup>rd</sup> party performance bond considering the poor track record of RAS facilities, especially at this level of operation.

- I am deeply concerned about its water usage: 1250 gallons per minute which NAF's own testing has revealed consequence for the amount and quality of ground water; I am speaking of salt water intrusion (explicitly not permitted in your evaluations) and significant draw down in other wells. Furthermore other countries such as China, Nova Scotia, Canada to name a few are not permitting use of surface water in RAS systems due to a history of ineffective water filtration systems. The potential consequence for river draw down of the Goose River, our main water source, has not happened. We anticipate economic and population growth in our City's future. NAF's taking so much of our water will likely limit the nature of any future development.

-I find the amount of discharge of effluent into the Bay ( 7.7 million gallons a day), to be unacceptable. This is water used for fishing, recreation and all tests indicate that because of the Bay's configuration, it will take 14 days for such effluent to leave this area. This is likely to have a huge impact on our critical tourism industry. The water discharged is also likely to have a 10 degree warmer temperature than the Bay which will likely lead to growth of pathogens, and decrease in fish and lobsters, already threatened. Moreover climate change dictates that we do NOTHING to add to the warmth of our waters.

-I am opposed to the effect NAF's construction will have on our wetlands and of carbon sequestering forest. Ten wetlands ( some of special significance and 4 streams are slated to be eliminated as well as a 40 acre forest.

- and I am deeply concerned about the amount of carbon which will be released in the construction, and operation of the massive plant, including smokestacks more than 60' tall. What is proposed is a massive facility where electrical demands are calculated to jeopardize the existing electrical grid as they will equal the communities of Belfast, Lincolnville, Northport, Camden, Rockport and Rockland combined

In conclusion, the facility NAF envisions does not represent the best practice of recirculating aqua farms which now recommends self contained systems that have much less impact on surrounding water, air quality and global warming. Such systems are much more in keeping with Maine Climate Action plan and lessen the impact on the communities in which they are located. These are the systems that will contribute long term to a healthy economy and climate. I urge you to adopt closed systems as the standard for aqua farming Maine.

Thank you for considering my concerns,  
Ridgely Fuller  
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