

## Burke, Ruth A

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**From:** William Leavenworth <william.leavenworth@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 17, 2020 11:00 AM  
**To:** DEP, Nordic Aqua Farms  
**Subject:** Little River ecosystem

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Dear Employees of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, fellow citizens of Waldo County, and neighbors to our south along the Bay shore:

The extraordinary size and planned construction of the NAF salmon factory would suggest to me that any corporation that plans a project with a pre-ordained life expectancy should post a bond to pay for the decommissioning, or show how it will not leave the city and its taxpayers holding the bag for restoring the site. From the plant designs I've seen, the decommissioning of this Nordic Aquafarms site might cost Belfast most or all or the tax money accrued over the life of the project. These are not lightweight structures, and the foundations go into bedrock. Even if they could be affordably removed, the pine woods along those ponds would take over a century to regrow from planted seedlings.

I feel that if NAF were sincere and above-board with their plans, they'd have approached Rockland, which has a railhead that functions in almost any weather and season. The Hurricane of 1953 put a stop to much vehicular traffic in Waldo County for a couple of weeks, while culverts and bridges were replaced--a repeat of that event could result in an atmosphere around Belfast redolent of rotting fish, and we are due for a hurricane, given the pace of global warming. An ice storm similar to the ice storm of 1998 could have a similar effect on the operation. The hurricane of 1938 was even worse--and such an event would shut down the aquafarm for weeks. It doesn't look to me as though people are considering adverse future possibilities for this project. Remember that the chicken farm idea foundered not on fowl play, but on events in Middle Eastern oil countries far beyond the control of Waldo County chicken farmers and Belfast chicken packers. Every effort to create industrial farms in our latitude is dependent on stable oil prices—a fantasy out of our control. Please consider alternate uses of the Little River--there will always be a market for alewives and elvers, or even adult eels. Fifty-odd years ago I saw eels as big as my arm swimming in Quantabacook Pond. At the time, I didn't know there was a market for them--but they could be raised in the two Little River ponds and marketed in Japan for as long as Japanese culture exists.

Regards,

Dr. William Burgess Leavenworth, Ph.D., retired environmental historian & mariner,  
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