

## Burke, Ruth A

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**From:** Suzanne Stone <whitegourdia@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 18, 2020 2:48 PM  
**To:** DEP, Nordic Aqua Farms  
**Cc:** Bertocci, Cynthia S; Martin, Kevin  
**Subject:** BEP comments

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you as a resident of Belfast, Maine to vehemently oppose the proposal of Nordic Aquafarms to build in Belfast, Maine.

I oppose this on so many accounts, & I will offer some of them here.

Myself, among many residents of the Coast of Maine & those visiting, love to swim in the sea including Belfast Bay & wish for sea creatures to be able to swim here as well. It is therefore distressing that Nordic Aquafarm plans to discharge continuously 108 million gallons of effluent into this Bay, a Bay whose currents take 14 days to discharge out of the Gulf of Maine. This discharge will offer 1,484 pounds of nitrogen daily to the Bay & large amounts of phosphorus which we all know excess nitrogen & phosphorus can cause algal blooms leading to fish-kills & damage to the health of the Bay as we as to our local, small, thoughtful Aquaculture operations to the south & along Penobscot Bay islands.

Instead let us offer support to the local, small scale aquaculture who harvesting seaweed & shellfish as well as supporting the health of the seas & not harming them like Nordic Aquafarm's effects will be.

This effluent from Nordic's facilities will contain feces from food that has not been named, although myself & many others have asked for this information from NA. What the salmon are being fed is crucial knowledge, as what they are fed, they will excrete. It has been stated land-based Salmon factories feed their fish pig blood, smaller fish, GMO corn & soy & chicken by-products. What is the effect of the effluent that contains the antibiotics, pesticides, GMOs & chemicals used in production of these on the creatures of the sea? Studies need to be done before we experiment with our Bay. As well, many of the little fish fed to Salmon are actually nourishing local food for many peoples of the world instead of the carbon footprint of shipping them around the world for expensive salmon.

Nordic Aquafarm has stated they will not use vaccines & pharmaceutical medicines, yet how will this be monitored what will they do when a breakout of virus attacks their salmon like many RAS systems have been experiencing & how they will deal with thousands of diseased Salmon, where would these go & not harm other living organisms? These all need to be addressed.

All of this adds to a disgusting mixture being poured daily in Belfast Bay, a place where people live year round, is a tourist destination & other beings like sea birds, seals, fish, lobsters & seaweed live. If there is to be a salmon factory here, this needs to be a zero discharge facility & much smaller! Let us be truly innovative & thoughtful instead of not learning from the past couple hundred years of thoughtless, polluting industrialization.

Maine is attempting to be more carbon-neutral in the coming years, we have to! This facility is not a carbon-neutral factory. Nordic Aquafarms will be adding between 555,000-759,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents into the atmosphere each year. This is the same as adding the carbon dioxide of 120,000-150,000 more cars on the road. Governor Mills has stated her desires for Maine to move forward in decreasing our created carbon to levels below 1991 by 2030, Nordic Aquafarm's gluttony of carbon production does not align at all with Maine's vision. The rest of Maine will have to try to offset their intense carbon production while a few Norwegian CEOs will profit.

Not only will Nordic Aquafarm be increasing the carbon footprint of Belfast & Maine, placing more of a burden on the rest of us to cut even more carbon, to build their facility, they will be cutting down 34 acres including forests, between 15-48' of soil & 10 wetlands! The Earth, being the brilliant Gaia that she is, has designed these forests, soil & wetland as some of our best carbon sequesterers on Earth. Nordic's plan involves greatly increasing carbon levels as well as destroying some of our best carbon sequesters, as well as places of habitat, beauty & solace. There is no logic here, only unwise, short term greedy thinking.

Growing up here in Maine, I have watched how time & time again Maine welcomed long-term polluters, industry & nightmares for short-term goals. I was relieved when Governor Mills took down the 'Maine, Open for Business' sign from the LePage era & kept, 'Maine, the way life should be'. I beseech all of us to learn from our past mistakes & move forward with thoughtfulness & wisdom, instead of with profit margins for industry at any cost to our world.

Maine's coasts rely on the tourist industry, people come to Vacationland for the beauty. This RAS system that Nordic Aquafarms is proposing, on such a large scale that has never been in operation before, is an unwise gamble for the health of our coasts & not something our children will look back upon as a thoughtful decision for the future.

Not to mention the discharge pouring into the Bay, kicking up the mercury in the sediment level. There is so much glaringly wrong with Nordic Aquafarms plans, too much to be able to relate in one letter.

- I ask you to demand more independent studies from Nordic Aquafarms for such important information as
- the effects of increased nitrogen & phosphorus in Belfast Bay & on the lobsters, cod & others dear inhabitants
  - the real movement of the factory's effluent to our swimming beaches & surrounding islands
  - the ability of UV filtration systems to kill viruses & rid the effluent of pesticides, industrial cleaners & GMO corn & soy
  - studies on how the sea lice that will gather at the pipes, due to the scent of Salmon, & will effect sea creatures & local aquaculture & lobster folk
  - plans for what the fish factory will do in the event of major power outages & hurricanes
  - that they really have rights to the land for the pipeline
  - that they really have the funding for this exceedingly expensive venture & wont leave a polluted eyesore in Belfast

And most importantly, part of the plans must be a closure plan of Nordic Aquafarms to decommission & restore the land to its prior health at the end of their tenure at their expense. If not, we will be left with their mess that they created, especially if they also do not come up with the funding which they still have not done.

We are hopefully wiser & more thoughtful than this short term, profit-over-health plan that Nordic is offering. Please show the people of the state of Maine that this is true by demanding more studies for this not-well-thought-out experiment

Thank you for your time & consideration.

Suzanne Stone  
12 Mill Lane  
Belfast, ME 04915  
207 922 7483