

Burke, Ruth A

From: Nancy Durand Lanson <nancydurandlanson@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 5:36 PM
To: DEP, Nordic Aqua Farms
Subject: Do not give Nordic any permit

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Dear DEP

My name is Nancy Durand Lanson and I am a resident of Momnroe, Maine

I am contacting you concerning the Nordic Aquafarms salmon factory being proposed in the town of Belfast on the Little River. I have a number of concerns including the local economy, tourism, climate change, and a non-compliant application and application process.

It is my understanding that Maine's Climate Action Plan states that Maine cannot reach its carbon reduction goals with business-as-usual. Nordic Aquafarms is a business-as-usual factory farm, that might be responsible for at least 4% of the state's emission. Here are a few examples of all it will require:

- Dumping of 7.7 million gallons of nitrogen rich effluent that will also contain unknown quantities of chemicals and drugs including antibiotics, pesticides and cleaning agents, as well as pathogens that will pass through the filtration system, every day into the Penobscot Bay where children swim, lobstermen fish, and the endangered Atlantic salmon and Shortnose sturgeon struggle to survive.
- The liquidation of a maturing, carbon sequestering forest, and wildlife habitat of Special Significance, carbon storing soils and wetlands of Special Significance, streams, and drainages, critical shoreland wetlands,
- A massive infrastructure with a huge carbon footprint (it will equal the size of Gillette Stadium, Fenway Park, and two TD Gardens),
- Eight diesel generators each with a 67 foot smokestack, This is business as usual, I do not see the solar panels they were at first planning to et up, it is looking like they are trying to influence our mind regarding their plant since their first public talk and their application do not match in intentions.
- A cement plant!
- Alterations to Route 1 and at least 5 years of construction and
- Unknown amounts of noise and odor,
- 1,250 gallons of fresh water intake per minute, from 1 surface body and 2 aquifers
- The use of so much electricity that the existing grid cannot sustain the demand which equals that of Belfast, Northport, Lincolnville, Camden, Rockport, and Rockland combined.

I understand Belfast, like all towns, needs to receive revenue. However, the climate and extinction crisis demand that we move beyond the business-as-usual model proposed, and adopt innovative, creative

technologies and systems that drastically lower greenhouse gas emissions, and protect the natural world. Protecting the Penobscot Bay from pollution and warming is critical.

Nordic's approach is an outdated model based on receiving a "license to pollute." Belfast, the State of Maine, and the world can no longer afford this approach.

It is my understanding that far better aquaculture systems exist that require significantly less energy, recycle all of their waste, and do not entail the antibiotics, pesticides and caustic cleaners Nordic requires. They operate in close containers with nearly NO discharge. These aquaculture plants could benefit our local economy even multi-generation fishermen, could transition and make a decent living producing fish, seaweed and clam (these 3 species are complementary and clean the water for each other). These systems have a feel of Maine, and it would help the economy. Nordic is a Delaware corporation, whose money will go to Norway.

Nordic has not shown that they have the financial capacity to build and maintain a \$500 million project. They do not even have any letter of intentions, believing they can get them, is different. Such a project should be showing upfront financing at least the 20% required in the application Why aren't banks and investors wanting to firm their offer with Nordic?

Maine should choose to support corporations using these fully closed systems. This will bring good and lasting jobs and revenue to Maine. It will guarantee that local lobstering and fishing businesses, as well as small-scale aquaculture ventures, and recovering wild fish populations, are protected from pollution.

Maine should pick the corporations they will be doing business with NOT according to their good intentions but according to their actions and their ability to help move Maine toward its 2050 emission goal (if the corporation is to last 50 years, we need to look further than the 2030 first deadline.)

Fully closed systems are the future, and they represent a win-win-win for Maine.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Sincerely,

Nancy Durand Lanson

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