

## Burke, Ruth A

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**From:** Janie Phillips <janiemainie@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 18, 2020 3:54 PM  
**To:** DEP, Nordic Aqua Farms

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February 18, 2020

To: The Department of Environmental Protection  
From: Jane Phillips, Belfast  
RE: Proposed Nordic Aquafarms RAS project

Dear Members of the Board,

I am writing to express my opposition to the large scale concentrated feeding operation that Nordic Aquafarms proposes to build in Belfast. I have many concerns about this project, including: environmental impacts to our watershed and bay, an extremely large carbon footprint, noise concerns for neighboring residents, loss of wildlife habitat, lack of financial readiness...the list goes on and, and you have been made aware of these and many other issues at the recent public hearings.

One of the most important reasons for my opposition concerns the issue of Title, Right and Interest; a topic that was deemed off-limits at the hearings. The Belfast City Planning Board was also instructed by the city attorney to disregard this issue as they review Nordic's permit application.

The ownership of the intertidal zone over which Nordic intends to place discharge and intake pipes is well documented in the chain of ownership deeds and surveys and was settled by the courts in 1970. Shockingly, the BEP and the Bureau of Parks and Lands decided that Nordic could move forward with their permit applications, leaving the matter "for the courts to decide." This has resulted in a lengthy and expensive legal battle for the rightful owners of this property.

It is unclear when the state and federal courts will rule on this matter, and if the BEP grants Nordic a permit, they could well break ground and begin building before a decision is made.

Based on the evidence at hand, it is very likely that the courts will uphold the 1970 legal decision and evidence documented in deeds and surveys. If NAF has destroyed 50+ acres of forest and wildlife habitat, and has begun to build a facility that has no access to the bay and is therefore useless, who will take responsibility for this fatal error?

Allowing Nordic to go forward before the legal issue of property ownership has been settled (again), is irresponsible and could result in disastrous consequences. Please do not give Nordic a green light to do irreparable damage to our community.

Sincerely,  
Janie Phillips