

From: Robin Schroffel <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2024 6:51 AM
To: Jeanine Dodds; David Maude; Tobi Elliott; Robert Kojima; Charly Caproff; Risa Smith; Susan Yates; Charles Kahn; Ken Thomas; Lisa Gauvreau
Subject: Feedback on Oceanwood Development Proposal - File No.: MA-RZ-2023.1
Attachments: Notification on Pyramid Scheme Operated by the distributors of Enagic Business.doc

Dear Trustees,

I'm writing in regards to the Oceanwood Development Proposal at 630 Dinner Bay Road, Mayne Island (File # MA-RZ-2023.1). I am a nearby neighbor within 1 km of the proposed development and along the driving route to the property. In sum, **there is insufficient information to warrant approving the proposal at this time.** My specific concerns are outlined below:

Impact on water use

The water plan for the development is unclear. In my opinion, this is the single most important issue for any proposed development on the island.

My residence is on the VPID water system. In the three years I have lived on Mayne Island, the water restrictions have been frequent and recurring, particularly in the summertime, when water has had to be trucked in on numerous occasions. We are already automatically on Stage 2 water restrictions from May 1 to Sept 30. Stage 3 restrictions were in place for much of summer 2023, which includes "Extreme caution in using household water: fewer showers, fewer flushes, fewer clothes washes." I am extremely concerned about the impact of the proposed development on

the water table, as it essentially amounts to adding 20 new residences at once in a small area adjacent to the VPID well system. How will this development affect the households already grappling with the difficult water situation, both on the VPID system and those in the neighborhood on well systems? Has there been a study by an objective third party to confirm that this will not cause further deprivation to the other households in the area, or that the capacity is sufficient to support the demand from those in the existing building's 12 suites plus 20 new self-contained cabins? Assuming double occupancy, this could amount to 64 or more additional people regularly drawing on an already strained water system.

I am not sure if the desalination plant idea is still on the table, but if so, has an environmental impact assessment been done to ascertain the effect of the proposed system on the marine environment?

In either case, more information is required before being able to make an informed decision.

Impact on existing tourism business

Many of my neighbors rely on income from short-term rentals to afford the cost of living on Mayne Island. Has an objective third-party study been conducted on the current occupancy levels across the island to determine the demand for such a large expansion of the previous hotel? How will it impact the existing small-scale tourism businesses ordinary Mayne Islanders rely on to survive?

Business plan

Lastly, although I am not personally acquainted with the property owners, I understand that they have been personally barred from doing business in certain countries due to the negative impact their illegal business activities had in the local community (see news article [here](#) and attached notice from the Bhutan Office of Consumer Protection declaring their activities an illegal pyramid scheme).

Given this, I feel that a clear and transparent business plan is critical for reassuring the Mayne Island community about the nature of this business proposal. Specifically, I would want to know that this proposed business has no connection with the property owners' other business activities and will not be used to perpetuate such a business in Canada or make Mayne Island a base for a multi-level marketing pyramid scheme, which would certainly not have a positive impact on the community.

In summary, **I have no opposition to the property being renovated and restored with its existing footprint and usage, but there is insufficient information to warrant approving the application as-is.** The information provided is too vague and raises too many questions. Only once the impact on the water system, existing tourism business, and community are determined will there be enough information to make an informed decision.

Thank you for your time.

Best regards,

Robin Schroffel

Homeowner & Resident





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OFFICE OF CONSUMER PROTECTION
MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN
THIMPHU



MoEA/OCP/CED/PublicNotice/09/2022/254

April 26, 2022

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

This is to inform the general public that the Office of Consumer Protection has deemed the mode of business operation - both online and offline - adopted by promoters and distributors of the Enagic Alkaline Ionizer and Water Filtration machines or Kangen Water machine in Bhutan is a pyramid scheme.

The scheme is primarily based on enticing individuals to purchase these machines, claiming health benefits of the Kangen Water, which is not validated by any competent authority. The scheme also entices buyers to register as members by promising compensation (commission), as and when they register new members; and to become a member, it is mandatory to buy one of these products.

This contravenes Rule 38 (xiii) of the Consumer Protection Rules and Regulations, 2015, wherein “*establishing, operating or promoting a pyramid promotional scheme where a consumer receives compensation that is derived primarily from the introduction of other consumers into the scheme rather than from the sale or consumption of products*” is classified as unfair trade practice and therefore not legal.

Therefore, the Office of Consumer Protection informs the general public to refrain from engaging in this scheme by becoming a member to promote the scheme further by introducing downline members. The existing promoters/ distributors, whether operating online or offline, are directed to immediately cease such business practices. Participating in a pyramid scheme is prohibited and shall be promptly dealt with as per the Consumer Protection Act of Bhutan, 2012 and other relevant laws of the country.

However, importation and retailing or online sales of Enagic products is permissible in accordance with the business rules in vogue, after obtaining a valid trade license or an e-commerce license and on the assurance that he/ she will not engage in scouting and registering new members.

In doing so, retailers or e-commerce businesses of these products are informed to seek prior approval of competent national authorities before advertising their products as being beneficial to health, keeping in accord with the Medicines Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2003.

This is issued for the information of the general public.