

NORTHERN IRELAND HAZARDOUS WASTE FORUM

Report of Tenth Meeting

10th March 2005 at 10:30am – Ramada Hotel, Belfast

Forum Attendees

David Wilson (Chairman), Richard Burnett (ARC 21), Sandy Truesdale (EPG, Department of Environment), Gillian Stewart (INI), Kate Creaner (McQuillan Envirocare), Ken Forbes (Southern Waste Management Partnership), Jim McGrath (North West Region Waste Management Group), Brian Lewis (CBI), Barry Johnson (Oil Recycling Association), Suzanne Eastwood (NI Demolition Association), Des Howett (DOE, Ireland), Brian Meaney (EPA, Ireland), Peter Christie (NI Environmental Link), Jason McPollin (Irish Waste Environmental Services, Harold Bennett (Wilson Waste Management), Roland Arnison (National Household Hazardous Waste Forum), Shane Woods (Small Business Federation), Pamela Patterson (EHS Waste Operations Manager), Allison Townley (EHS, Hazardous Waste Section), Stephanie McAuley (EHS – Strategy), Eleanor Turley (EHS, Hazardous Waste Section), John Knox (EHS, Hazardous Waste Section).

Apologies:

Billy McClintock (Health and Safety Executive), Derek Duncan (Southern Waste Management Partnership), Alan McElreavey (Invista): Desi Wreath (North West Region Waste Management group), Pat Corker (EHS Waste Strategy), Trevor Knipe (INI), Wendy Connor (EPG, Department of Environment) Cecil Hamill (McQuillan Envirocare), Pat Fenton (DOE , Ireland), Patricia Donnan (Health Estates)

Introductions and welcome new members.

1. **Minutes of meeting and matters arising**

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

EHS provided data on waste asbestos arisings for years 2003-2004 on a monthly basis to the Forum and the Forum members agreed to keep this under review.

It was noted DOEHLG – First Annual Report had been distributed to the Forum members.

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2. **Status of Implementation Plan**

The Final Draft implementation plan has been distributed. Arc21 submitted it to their joint committee and it was agreed unanimously to support the plan. NWRWMG circulated the plan and agreed that it can be accepted that the plan has been endorsed. CBI informed the Forum that it has no negative comments to make on the plan. It was agreed that the plan would go on the website as a final plan subject to any further comments from SWAMP and it would be updated after every meeting .

ACTION : Secretariat to update the plan to March 2005. Distribute to Forum Members and if no comments place on the website

3. **Review of Actions and milestones to date - Regulatory System**

Section 1.1A – milestone achieved

Section 1.1C – Comments on the consultation of the new Hazardous Waste Regulations are due by 25/3/05.

CBI was interested in how fixed penalties, indicated in the new regulations, will be administered and implemented.

EHS is to clarify what mixing of categories will be allowed under the new regulations

EPG reported that the responses to the consultation document had raised no major issues thus far.

EPG may send out a mailshot to the industry to advise them of the changes to the list of hazardous waste and they are going to publish a list of responses on the EPG website.

Discussion ensued as to how to inform the industry including small businesses of changes to Hazardous Waste Regulations and what will be classified as hazardous waste. The Small Business Federation indicated that most employers were not aware of the new regulations coming in operation, but they suggested that small leaflets be distributed to businesses. They also suggested that where employers had access to the web site it would be useful to have a question and answer dialogue re hazardous Waste on the EHS Website

EHS informed the Forum that there are plans to organise workshops and seminars for businesses on hazardous waste.

Section 1.1D - ELV directive in operation from 8.2.05. EHS advised that there was discussion ongoing with EPG and DTI as to when an ELV will become hazardous waste. DTI have issued guidance with the regulations which came into operation on 3.3.05 in GB. CBI sought clarification that aircraft will not be included as ELVs and it was confirmed this would be the case by EPG.

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WEEE – EPG advised that there was a large response and some major issues had been raised. Policy and timing decisions will be taken next month. EPG to advise the Forum.

Section 1.1.F – EPG confirmed that a letter had been sent to DEFRA. The response from DEFRA indicated that as the Waste Shipment Regulations will not be amended until 2006/2007, the UK Plan would not be updated until the changes are transposed into UK legislation. The Forum was asked if this was acceptable or should the Forum approach DEFRA again. Arc 21 requested if a copy of the response from DEFRA could be circulated. EPG agreed to check.

Section 1.2B – It was agreed that EPG would lead on this, with EHS support. Forum advised that EPG/EHS had discussed the issue and will keep Forum updated.

Section 1.3D - confirmed that EHS has met with District Councils and EPG. Items raised were the redrafting of the protocol with councils, the powers and resources available to EHS and the EA fly tipping programme - which will result in the introduction of tougher penalties, where councils will be responsible for implementing those penalties.

ARC21 advised that District Council are still awaiting guidance and confirmed that no joint statement had been issued.

EHS advised that issues had been progressed on an informal basis.

ACTION : EPG to circulate any update on announcement of WEEE policy and the timing of new regulations to Forum members.

EPG to check if letter ex DEFRA could be distributed to Forum members.

EHS to advise the Forum on the status of the protocol.

4. Review of actions and milestones to date – Communications and awareness

Section 2.1A – EHS advised that as part of information and awareness programme they have been spreading the word re hazardous waste through the Envirowise workshop in December 04 and the “Wake up to Waste” campaign.

Section 2.1B – No update

Section 2.1C - What is Waste Management industry doing to promote Hazardous Waste awareness?

McQuillans advised that this is being progressed through workshops, updating the website, seminars letters to key customers and mailshots.

Wilson Waste Management advised that there is ongoing dialogue with customers, letters will be issued and a seminar will be organised for the end of the year.

Irish waste advised that there has been representative contact with customers.

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Discussion was held on the way to progress this ie through a defined strategy.

There were other suggestions made such as advertising in the business and general sections of the Belfast Telegraph, news items on radio, running competitions to submit ideas or activities but INI advised that they had tried this but with limited success.

Small Business Federation invited representatives from EHS/EPG to attend their annual conference in the spring and in this way help raise awareness.

A presentation was given on the “Wake up to Waste Campaign” by Stephanie McAuley (EHS) followed by discussion.

ACTION : EHS/EPG/CIWM to look into holding a seminar and press ahead with it.

5. **Review of actions and milestones to date - Encouraging the 4Rs**

Section 3.1 – INI are waiting for the monies to come through from the Landfill Tax Escalator.

Section 3.2 – no progress to date

Action: EPG to report to the June forum on progress made with DEFRA on developing a programme with the aim of developing economic and similar instruments that act as an incentive to minimize hazardous waste production.

6. **Review of actions and milestones to date – Treatment and disposal Capacity**

Section 4.1 – draft statement will be prepared for the June 2005 meeting.

EHS advised the Forum that S Quinn had been given planning approval for a separate cell for asbestos in their non -hazardous waste landfill site, but still awaiting its waste management licence.

Section 4.3A - EHS said that Planning Service have 6 applications for permission to set up transfer stations.

Eastwood’s reported that they had received planning approval and were just awaiting an amendment to their Waste Management Licence.

The Forum was told that there was hostility from the public towards the setting up of these new sites but was advised that what was needed was the provision of better information and awareness to the public.

Section 4.3B – Forum was advised that there will no DEFRA based study.

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7. **Presentation by the Household Hazardous Waste Forum**

A presentation on Household Hazardous Waste was given by Roland Arnison (Household Hazardous Waste Forum) followed by a discussion.

8. **Priority Waste Streams – Waste Oil Update**

Oil Recycling Association reported that the legislation is currently being evaluated and ORA are looking at how their members will cope with the changes. ORA sees the thematic strategy as the vehicle to challenge the WID and its consequences. However this will take some time and is therefore a medium term goal. EPA informed the Forum that in ROI once oil was recycled to a specific standard it was no longer regarded as a waste.

9. **Update from DOEHLG and EPA for ROI**

Planning approval has been granted for a hazardous waste incinerator in Ringasiddy Co cork and for a municipal waste incinerator near Drogheda , Co. Louth. The EPA will make a final decision on the waste licence applications for these proposed facilities by July 2005.

Progress is being made on the proposed Dublin incinerator and Dublin City Council's Client Representative is currently in discussions with the preferred bidder.

The structure for grant aid to local authorities under the Waste Enforcement Initiative has been adjusted to 100% for the first 3 years of operation, dropping to 75% and 50% for years 4 and 5 respectively.

10. **Date of next meeting**

9th June 2005