

Northern Ireland Hazardous Waste Forum

Report of Eighth Meeting

8th September 2004, at 10.30am – Ramada Hotel, Belfast

Forum Attendees:

David Wilson (Chair), Richard Burnett (ARC 21), James Graham (EPG, Department of the Environment), Gillian Stewart (INI), Trevor Knipe (INI), Patricia Donnan (Health Estates, Department of Health & Social Services), Cecil Hamill (McQuillan Envirocare), Ken Forbes (Southern Waste Management Partnership), Jim McGrath (North West Region Waste Management Group), Harold Bennett (Wilson Waste Management), Brian O'Neill (EPG, Department of the Environment), Sandy Truesdale (EPG, Department of the Environment), Brian Lewis (CBI), Barry Johnston (Oil Recycling Assoc), Billy McClintock (Health & Safety Executive NI), Suzanne Eastwood (NI Demolition Association), Brian Meeney (EPA Ireland), Aideen Kelly (EHS Hazardous Waste Section), Patricia McPeake (EHS Hazardous Waste Section), Allison Townley (EHS Hazardous Waste Section), Pamela Patterson (EHS Waste Operations Manager).

Apologies from:

Desi Wreath (North West Region Waste Management Group)
Nigel Martin (ARC21)
Noel Scott (Planning Service Department of the Environment)
Pat Corker (EHS Waste Strategy)
Jason McPolin (Irish Waste Environmental Services)
Niamh Drew (DOEH&LG Ireland)
Joanne Thompson (Planning Service, Department for the Environment)

Introductions and welcome new members

1. MINUTES OF MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of the last meeting – agreed

Agricultural Waste – EPG update; out to consultation in Oct 2004, and implemented in Spring 2005.

Letters to Consignors – EHS issued letters prior to 16th July 2004, majority of companies have responded and EHS feel that no other action needs to be taken. Copies of the BPEO on asbestos management were made available at meeting.

2. ACTION PLAN

Action Plan – published 9th July 2004, Chair thanked Secretariat for their work and congratulated all the contributors to the Action Plan, and asked Forum members for any general comments.

3. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Action Plan will now be used to help develop an Implementation Plan (preliminary versions of the Implementation Plan have already been e-mailed to the lead organisations). The Implementation Plan should follow the same format as Action Plan, one lead organisation associated with each specific Action (other organisations may support if required), the lead organisations should take responsibility for their own actions (resources may be required to be made available by each of the lead organisations), consideration should be given to dates, budgets and timings for financial years.

Chair requires Actions and feedback returned by end of September, Chair proposed Implementation Plan to be finished and circulated by the end of Oct or beginning of Nov EHS emphasised the need for lead organisations to stand over any outputs and milestones which result from the Action/Implementation Plans, key actions requiring resources should be prioritised.

Ban on co-disposal: discussion on hazardous waste situation post 16th July 2004, EHS not aware of any increase in illegal activity – task group was therefore not activated but will be if the need arises.

The current situation is; 1 company has an application for a separate cell, 4 applications with Planning Service for transfer stations and 1 transfer station currently accepting asbestos waste.

Action: EHS to provide data on pre and post 16th July and e-mail to Forum members

Legislation update

Waste Landfill directive – EPG asked for comments from the Forum members on WAC and landfill directives, interim guidance for separate cell facilities is available. EHS to produce guidance for non-hazardous waste for WAC

Action: AT to liaise with EHS licensing team re. Guidance note on Waste Acceptance Criteria

EPG to circulate Hazardous Waste Regulations – to be issued within the next two months, EPG would like to keep the same time frame as DEFRA. DEFRA published Regulations for consultation at end of July with closing date for comments 28th Oct 2004, and hope to have Regulations in place by April 2005 – information available on DEFRA website. Chair reiterated Forum member's views that they see this as very urgent and would encourage EPG to publish their document by the end of Oct 2004

Producer responsibility – legal problems have arisen with the ELV Regulations, however EPG hope to lay Regulations in Oct. ELV and WEEE are UK wide Regulations; however some parts are specific to NI. A WEEE seminar will be held by the DOE and CIWM at the City Hotel, Armagh 30th Sept.

WEEE – there are issues regarding treatment and storage relating to the forthcoming Hazardous Waste Regulations. The EPA informed the Forum that currently ROI contractors are pre-booking capacity in Europe now. General discussion followed on funding issues re ELV – EHS stated that a centralised contract could be set-up to deal with all councils, councils will be asked for their views on this matter. Guidance on exemptions etc is available on the website. Discussion on import/export of ROI/NI waste, Forum requested EPG to have discussions with DEFRA. EHS are moving forward on Batteries Directive re producer responsibility – batteries are included on the new Hazardous Waste List. EHS to become the Regulator of TFS by the end of 2004. EPG to meet with EHS re scoping exercise on Contaminated Land.

Communication

Information & Awareness Programme – INI favour the Envirowise programme and envisage Envirowise having a greater presence in NI with one point of contact. INI intend to produce a guidance document for councils etc. NI could link into website being set-up by CIWM. Envirowise have issued a guidance leaflet

It was agreed that EHS and INI would form a steering group to take communication and awareness actions forward.

Household Hazardous Waste

Discussions ensued on how to progress. It was noted that the National HHW was having a seminar on 28th Sept for councils looking at WEEE and HHW Regulations in England (leaflet was circulated). It was agreed to ask a representative of the National Household Hazardous Waste Forum to give a presentation to the Forum – councils could meet after the end of the meeting to discuss relevant issues.

Action: EHS to invite National HHW representative to give presentation at next HWF

4. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

INI taking steps to support waste management industry. Envirowise provide free visits to small businesses for advice on waste minimisation and re-use. INI moving away from capital grant support, WRAP have a flexible scheme available for recycling businesses. EHS enquired how the LTCS (now called Landfill Tax Escalator Mechanism (LTEM)) should be taken forward. INI stated that any funds raised in NI will be recycled back into NI businesses; WRAP's grant equity venture will be available over the next 3 years.

Action: INI to look specifically at Hazardous Waste (LTEM) and report findings at next HWF meeting

5. CAPACITY NEEDS

PPS11, statement of needs to determine if facility is needed, Forum should emphasise urgent requirement and in a format that Planning Service can use to fast track applications. The Department needs to look at this as a matter of urgency.

6. UPDATE FROM ROI

EPA representative gave an outline of their current position – draft regional plans to be issued by Dec 2004. The National hazardous waste plans are now linked to the local waste management plans. EPA circulated annual report from their Implementation Committee which has now been dissolved and incorporated into a larger committee, the National Waste Prevention Committee. There are currently 17 waste facilities of which 9 are processors and there are another 5 proposed facilities (including the Cork facility). No change in capacity – solvent blending (2 more applications received). ROI rely heavily on the export market. Pre 16th July 2004, ROI exported 3.5 thousand tonnes of asbestos, they have presently several transfer stations. Solvent blending – possible to move waste from North to facilities in ROI for blending as this would be classified as recovery.

7. Liaison with GB authorities

DEFRA set up LIP – meetings are convened each week, EHS, Scotland and Wales are corresponding members, the group looks at capacity needs, communication etc. reports back to ministers, our Action Plan has been forwarded to them and they have been advised of our requirements.

8. PRIORITY WASTE STREAMS

ORA representative gave a brief outline on their current position on RFO collection, processing, WID compliance. ORA representative stated that it would be impossible to make comments by end of Sept because of uncertainty within this industry.

Date of next meeting – WEDNESDAY 1st DEC