

NORTHERN IRELAND HAZARDOUS WASTE FORM

Report of Ninth Meeting

1st December 2004 at 10:30am – Ramada Hotel, Belfast

Forum Attendees

David Wilson (Chairman), Richard Burnett (ARC 21), James Graham (EPG, Department of Environment), Brain O'Neill (EPG, Department of Environment), Mark Livingstone (EPG, Department of Environment), Sandy Truesdale (EPG, Department of Environment), Gillian Stewart (INI), Trevor Knipe (INI), Patricia Donnan (Health Estates, Department of Health and Social Services and Public Safety), Cecil Hamill (McQuillan Envirocare), Mark McAdoo (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), Pat Fenton (DOE, Ireland), Peter Christie (NI Environmental Link), Jason McPollin (Irish Waste Environmental Services), Harold Bennett (Wilson Waste Management), Pamela Patterson (EHS Waste Operations Manager), Allison Townley (EHS, Hazardous Waste Section), John Knox (EHS, Hazardous Waste Section).

Apologies:

Billy McClintock (Health and Safety Executive), Brian Meaney (EPA, Ireland), Derek Duncan (Southern Waste Management Partnership), Alan McElreavey (Invistia): Desi Wreath (North West Region Waste Management group), Ken Forbes (Southern Waste Management Group), Pat Corker (EHS Waste Strategy)

Introductions and welcome new members

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

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed subject to two amendments being made.

EHS provided data on asbestos arising for quarter prior to and after 16th July 2004 to the Forum.

A discussion on illegal movement of asbestos followed. The EHS representative indicated that reported incidents were low. However, should the industry become aware of unscrupulous operators circumventing the law, they should inform the EHS. Any information received would be treated in strict confidence.

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ACTION: EHS to provide, at the next forum meeting, a monthly comparison of asbestos waste arising for 2003 and 2004.

EHS to issue a disposal of asbestos letter to the industry prior to the next Forum.

ACTION : Secretariat to arrange for a representative of the Household Hazardous Waste Forum to make a presentation at the next meeting and to meet with District Councils' representatives following the meeting.

2. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN : SECTIONS 2 and 3

Sam McCloskey (NI Agent for Envirowise) addressed the Forum. She informed members of the role, aims and objectives of Envirowise and the help they can provide to small/medium size (<250 employees) businesses in NI. There are several visit options available-

- (a) Fast Track Visit - totally free and conducted by Envirowise independent experts, who are committed to providing practical help to evaluate a business's hazardous waste activities, to identify avoidable waste and provide potential savings to the Company.
- (b) Design tract visit – free confidential visit by a specialist design consultant with the aim of reducing the environmental impact of a specific product.
- (c) Half day visit – free confidential visit on a specific environmental issue.

The website for Envirowise is www.envirowise.gov.uk and the free phone number is : 0800 585794

Discussion took place on sections 2 and 3 of the implementation plan.

Section 3: INI informed the Forum that there were already programmes in place such as interest free loans. The Landfill Tax Escalator Mechanism (LTEM) aims to discourage landfill by increasing the cost of landfill by more than the cost of inflation and to encourage companies to recover more waste. Over the next three years the money available is envisaged as £2M, £4M and £6M respectively. INI commissioned a consultation on how best to use this money. Options considered were the WRAP programme, interest free loans and enhanced capital allowances. INI informed the Forum of a stakeholders meeting being held on 13th December 2004 to inform business of the options followed by a workshop in January 2005. CBI enquired was there any prospect of enhanced capital allowances for those large businesses (>250 employees) who were taking measures to reduce the material going to landfill and ensure more recovery. INI informed them that this would be at the discretion of Treasury.

Further discussions on the content of section 3 of the Implementation Plan followed.

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Section 2: Forum was informed that it was difficult to quantify how much waste produced from households was hazardous and were advised that there was a current study taking place in one of the English local authority areas and the findings would be of interest to members.

ACTION: INI to inform secretariat of the correct dates and wording for section 3.1 and 3.2 of the implementation plan by close of play on 8th December 2004.

EHS and the councils are to liaise re the planned guidance leaflet for householders on asbestos waste which will be distributed to all households in Northern Ireland.

3. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN: SECTION 1

A presentation on the new hazardous waste regulations was given by EPG followed by a discussion.

Forum Members welcomed the fact that under the new proposed regulations there is only a requirement for one consignment note to accompany a waste stream from its production to its final destination for movements to Great Britain and that there will be improved tracking of the movement.

Forum Members were informed that the letter, detailed in section 1.1.F, had not been issued to DEFRA. Forum members requested that this should be issued immediately.

ACTION : EPG to issue letter to DEFRA immediately. EPG to confirm to the secretariat the wording and the remaining actions in section 1.1B, 1.1D and 1.1F by close of play on 8^h December 2004.

4. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN: SECTION 4

A presentation on Waste Oil was given by Roger Cresswell (Chair of ORA) followed by a discussion.

EHS clarified that if installations wished to continue accepting recycled oil as a fuel after December 2005 they must register with EHS by February 2005. However they need not notify EHS if they intend continuing until December 2005.

Section 4.1: ,EHS has issued the BPEO report on asbestos.

ACTION : ORA to inform next meeting of the way forward

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5. UPDATE FROM ROI

DOEHLG representative gave an outline of the current position. There has been a concentration of resources in trying to stop the illegal movement of waste. There has been a national committee formed and one area of focus will be on the illegal waste movement to NI. The forum was informed that EHS is represented on that committee.

ACTION: DOEHLG to send a copy of the annual report for circulation.

6. A.O.B

Forum members were asked to get back to the Secretariat with final changes to the Implementation Plan by 8th December 2004 with the final draft being circulated to all Forum Members by 10th December 2004.

A Final Draft Implementation plan would be published on the EHS website subject to confirmation from District Council Representatives.

The Final Implementation Plan being produced following agreement from all stakeholders representative organisations.

A vote of thanks was given to EHS on their sterling work throughout the year in the role of Secretariat to the Forum.

ACTION: Council Representatives to report to the Secretariat as soon as possible as to whether it was possible to publish the implementation plan on the website before full council approval had been given.

7. Date of next meetings

10th March 2005

9th June 2005