

# **NORTHERN IRELAND HAZARDOUS WASTE FORUM**

## **Report of Fourteenth Meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> March 2006 Ramada Hotel, Belfast**

### **Attendees**

David Wilson (Chairman)	Patricia Donnan (DHSSPS)
Richard Burnett (arc21)	Allison Townley (EHS)
Sandy Truesdale (EPG)	Pat Corker (EHS)
Wendy Cooke (EPG)	Suzanne Eastwood (NI Demolition Assoc)
Simon Webb (EPG)	Jim Wright (EHS – Licensing Team)
Brian Lewis (CBI)	Eamonn McAuley (EHS)
Gillian Stewart (INI)	John Knox (EHS)
Noel Scott (Planning Service)	

### **Apologies**

Jim McGrath (NWRWMG)	Billy McClintock (H & S Executive)
Desi Wreath (NWRWMG)	Carl Stuart (H & S Executive)
Ken Forbes (SWMP)	Jason McPolin (Irish Waste)
Peter Christie (NI Environmental Link)	Kate Creaner (McQuillans)
Harold Bennett (Wilson Waste)	Cecil Hamill (McQuillans)
Trevor Knipe (INI)	Pat Fenton (DOEHLG)
Brian Meaney (EPA)	Barry Johnston (ORA)
Paul Kidd (Atlas Environmental)	Pamela Patterson (EHS)

### **1. Introduction**

New members were welcomed.

### **2. Minutes of the last meeting and Actions arising**

The minutes were accepted without amendments.

Section 2.2 - Arc21 advised that legally the councils have no responsibility and it was agreed that EPG should take the lead role and Councils will have a support role.

CBI feel that there should be a more appropriate charging system for licensing facilities which recycle hazardous waste particularly when making minor amendments, at present this involves heavy costs . EHS advised that the

charging scheme was introduced 3 years ago and this is the first year charges introduced and there needs to be a review. EPG will take a lead in this review and it was decided that the waste prevention forum was the best avenue to pursue the discussion.

### Update of the Implementation Plan

Arc 21 was content that the implementation plan was published on the EHS website as long as the word "draft" remained. The Chairman asked that the councils reviewed the implementation plan and that by the date of the next meeting the word "draft" may be removed

### **3. Regulatory System**

EPG update –

- *Progress on the interpretation of the Hazardous Waste Regulations*

EPG advised that they will issue guidance on 2 or 3 aspects. There are still a few issues to be resolved but once completed, guidance will be issued with respect to Dentists, emergencies and guidance on offences. EPG will be happy to put on their website.

- *Progress on Producer Responsibility Directives (ELV, Batteries, WEEE)*

EPG advised that good progress on ELV has been made and there are approximately 14/15 authorised treatment facilities in NI. EPG advised that the date for implementation of the WEEE directive is supposed to be July 2006 but this is slipping due to legal issues and there has been no announcement from DTI as yet.

CBI advised that the ruling saying that any product designed or intended for use in aircraft will be exempt from WEEE regulations will give producers of waste a headache and may cause confusion and chaos. EPG were surprised at this and asked that information was passed to the Forum Members.

EPG indicated the Batteries Directive was due by mid 06. Some councils in NI (namely Armagh and Banbridge) are involved with the battery pilot recycling scheme organised by WRAP. Arc21 said councils in their area could not take part in the scheme due to the unavailability of licensed sites. Members were advised that WRAP want to extend the scheme to Supermarkets.

- *New Legislation on Enforcement*

The WMCL Order – Amendments are currently being drafted and a draft for consultation will be issued by the end of March 2006. EPG advised that EHS will have greater powers to issue fixed penalty notices (FPNs), stronger powers on seizure of vehicles, servicing of notices on landowners, and search vehicles and councils will have increased powers under Articles 21 and 22 to issue FPNs.

Section 1.1C- EPG said that nothing has gone out for consultation but once released EPG promised to inform the members by Email. Discussion still ongoing as to when ELVs will become hazardous, other ELV guidance in place. WEEE guidance is currently being developed by DTI their website is currently being revised and EPG will inform Forum of exact details at next meeting. .

#### EHS Update

- *Review of Import/Export Plan*

The Agencies met in January 06 at DEFRA headquarters to discuss WSR and TFS. There was no discussion on the Import/Export Plan. At present there is not much substance to TFS regulations but a point has been raised as to whether there needs to be a separate chapter in relation to NI. WSR have not been ratified due to translation difficulties.

- *Regulatory Activities*

EHS advised that since introduction of the regulations, it has been a very busy period giving advice and guidance to companies and Individuals. The problems were compounded by staff resources. EHS said that currently the staff shortage has been alleviated with the employment of 5 contract staff and 7 permanent staff in the near future.

EHS have produced leaflets advising of changes for waste oils from 28.12.06.

- *Update on "Fly Capture"*

EHS advised that this database was developed by EA and EHS have now signed up to use the database. It was launched in NI on 21/22 February 2006 and to date 6 councils have signed up to use it. ArC21 said that at the last meeting of the Technical Advisory Group, whilst the group welcomed the initiative, they felt that there were several issues that needed to be addressed before it could be fully effective. .

#### 4. **Communication and Awareness**

- *InvestNI Update*

Invest NI are currently updating the hazardous waste pages on their Waste Works website. In order to point businesses in the right direction they are looking for suggestions to profile businesses who have had success on recycling hazardous waste and the benefits to those businesses. The Environment Clubs are now coming to an end and Invest NI intends to review to see if they will continue with this initiative.

Section 2.1B INI Advisory Helpline – in the period March 2005 to January 2006- 614 calls were received of which 108 calls (18%) were in respect of Hazardous Waste.

Envirowise Helpline – in the period April 2004 to September 2005 – 176 calls were received of which 25 calls (14%) were in respect of Hazardous Waste.

It was raised that one site for accepting asbestos was awaiting a judicial review and that another site, although licensed was currently not taking in asbestos yet.

The members noted that there is still a need to procure a site to accept other stabilised non reactive hazardous waste

- *Update from Waste Management Industry on guidance to customers*

No representatives attended the meeting – now rolled over to the next meeting

- *Household Hazardous Waste review on section 2.2 of the implementation plan*

Arc21 advised that there had been no meeting held between the technical Officers and the Health and Safety Executive during production of HSE asbestos guidance. However they would keep the Forum informed of any developments on dealing with asbestos waste.

#### 5. **Encouraging Hazardous Waste Reduction, Reuse Recycling and Recovery**

INI advised that currently there is a pilot project using a “waste locator tool” - the aim is to improve data management of all waste disposed including

hazardous waste – INI was asked to make a presentation at the next meeting

INI say they are working closely with businesses to enable them to reduce their waste disposal costs

6. **Update from ROI**

No representative was present and this was rolled over to the next meeting, however the statement provided by EPA in their absence was read out to Forum members.

Chair agreed to send letter to EPA ref National Haz waste with help from arc21 and CBI.

7. **Ensuring Provision of Recycling, Recovery, Treatment and Disposal Capacity**

Planning Service reported that 3 planning applications for disposal/transfer of asbestos have been approved but 2 are subject to judicial review. There is another application pending. Decisions on ELV applications are ongoing and currently there are 2 applications being considered for WEEE storage Planning Service agreed to produce a short schedule of applications involving hazardous waste for the Forum.

Section 4.2 The oil recycling industry industry is still looking for an outlet to take its recycled product following the implementation of the waste incineration directive.

ARC21 advised that their revised waste management plan was at an advanced stage. There will be a section on waste prevention and a section on Hazardous Waste. The section on hazardous waste will reflect the conclusions of the Capacity Needs Report and arc21 thanked the work of the Forum and the Department in producing this report. There will be a consultation period of 6 weeks when comments from stakeholders and the general public will be welcomed. For further details see the local press. The plans will be also be available on the arc 21 website. It was also noted that the other two groups are also out to consultation on their revised plans.

8. **Date of Next Meetings**

8<sup>th</sup> June 2006

7<sup>th</sup> September 2006

14<sup>th</sup> December 2006

## Appendix A: SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

	<b>ACTION POINT</b>	<b>Who is responsible</b>
1	Section 2.2 of the Implementation Plan to be amended	Secretariat
2	Review of Implementation Plan and ratification	Councils
3	Members to be informed of the ruling that products designed or intended for use in aircraft are exempt from WEEE Regulations	CBI
4	Update from Waste Management Industry at the next meeting	Waste Management Industry
5.	Presentation on the "pilot waste locator tool" at the next meeting	INI
6.	Update from ROI at the next meeting	EPA, DOE(HLG)
7.	Planning Service to provide schedule of applications involving hazardous waste	PS
8.	Letter to EPA by Chair with help from CBI and arc 21	Chair