

Northern Ireland Hazardous Waste Forum

Report of Second Meeting

3rd July 2003, at 10.00am – Birch Suite, Ramada Hotel, Belfast

Forum Attendees :

David Wilson (Chair), Jim McGrath (North West Region Waste Management Group), Richard Burnett (ARC 21), Tim Irwin (Environmental Policy Division, Department of the Environment), Gillian Stewart (INI), Noel Scott (Planning Service, Department of the Environment), Derek Duncan (Southern Waste Management Partnership), Ken Forbes (Southern Waste Management Partnership), Brian Diamond (Health Estates, Department of Health & Social Services), Barry Johnson (UK Oil Recycling Association), Harold Bennett (Wilson Waste Management), Cecil Hamill (McQuillan Envirocare), Jason McPolin (Irish Waste Environmental Services), Peter Christie (NI Environment Link), Claire O'Neill (EHS Hazardous Waste Section), Patricia McPeake (EHS Hazardous Waste Section), Allison Townley (EHS Hazardous Waste Section).

Apologies from :

Brian Lewis (CBI)

Pat Corker (EHS Waste Strategy)

Pamela Patterson (EHS Waste Operations Manager)

Nigel Martin (ARC21) – Richard Burnett representing (ARC21)

Chair : highlighted that representation of one or two people from each “group” was acceptable

EPD informed the group that DOE LG Dublin is interested in joining the group but unfortunately they couldn't attend today's meeting.

Introduction :

Chair welcomed the new members, circulated the notes on 3rd June meeting and invited comments.

MATTERS ARISING – Action Points

1. DW & AT representing Northern Ireland on DEFRA Hazardous Waste Forum – Chair asked ARC21 for feedback from his discussion with NILGA
NILGA are content with current representation arrangements - DW & AT to continue to act as a conduit at present – but if required NILGA may voice their own opinions
2. EHS to provide information on breakdown of Solid, Liquid and Other materials to Landfill

EHS circulated the information, which included:

- table containing the 2 digit coding
- bar chart with the breakdown of the 2 digit coding
- pie chart showing the breakdown of solid, liquid and other waste to landfill of which 71% is solid material

Discussion ensued regarding oily waste to landfill – EHS informed the group that this waste is predominantly oily rags and contaminated soil, which comes under EWC

code 130501. The quantity of solid oily waste can be attributed to de-watered interceptor waste.

Tables indicate the construction, demolition and oil industry produce most waste to landfill.

EHS said that most C&D waste is asbestos from demolition jobs –year on year comparison is not possible but the introduction of legislation banning asbestos re-use can possibly account for an increase in asbestos going to landfill. It was agreed this was a useful starting point and should look at C&D waste and Oil waste as priority waste streams.

3. EHS circulated CBI paper and redraft of TOR

4. Waste Management Industry to provide illegal waste movement figures:

Industry indicated an additional 20% of the total given at the last meeting is being moved illegally. This is due to both mis-classification and fly-tipping primarily from smaller businesses, which can be attributed to lack of knowledge.

Discussion then ensued regarding these movements to licensed or non-licensed sites, movements between N.Ireland and England and Scotland.

Types of waste vary, movements may be made in tankers or drums.

EHS acknowledged that they need to be more pro-active in informing the public regarding the regulations.

Evidence would be needed by the Regulatory body to substantiate the 20% figure, EHS will act on all information received (in confidence) by doing an across the board investigation.

DOC, Sp Waste Section, licensing councils and other agencies should work together to establish fact and perhaps take legal proceedings.

Industry Reps. to speak to EHS outside the Forum regarding these movements

5. EHS to contact SEPA & EA

EHS contacted the EA and received information from them recently – EHS will compare the figures from both industry and the EA. SEPA's figures not as accurate as EA's

Action: EHS to produce information at next meeting

6. EHS provided questionnaires regarding waste leaving NI to three waste management companies. These were completed and given to EHS at meeting.

Action: EHS to collate data and produce at next meeting

7. Membership of the Forum:

New members were welcomed from:

Planning Service

NI Environmental Link

Health Estates

NI Small Business Federation (sent apologies)

EPD informed the group that a member from DOE LG Dublin is interested in joining the Forum – (sent apologies – unable to attend today's meeting)

EHS informed group of CEF request to be corresponding member

The rep. From the CIA has not responded – on holiday

Action: EHS to contact again

Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference were discussed and amendments provided.

The background section – the work of the Forum in relation to other bodies.

Paragraph A to be edited for grammar. Paragraph B: the length of time of the Forum to produce quality advice was questioned. The chair suggested that it was his interpretation to have a draft copy ready by January – this would be in line with the DEFRA forum – it would be more important to have a waste strategy plan in place when there are no facilities available, wording to be amended. Paragraph C suggested amendments to this paragraph. Questions were asked if this forum was a BPEO exercise? BPEO – economics, practicalities, social not as important.

Process model – drive decision to the best practical environmental option EHS said that this forum was focussing on the interim capacity/medium term requirements.

Action: ARC21 to provide suggestion for background section of TOR. EHS to redraft TOR with suggested amendments and forward to Forum members along with minutes.

Work plan

Chair suggested the need for intermediate meetings: three to take place between September and December. Although DEFRA works through 3 sub-groups this would not be appropriate for N.Ireland – suggested that it would probably be best to focus on specific actions.

General discussion on the way forward – Identify priority waste streams. The implications of the Landfill Directive and identification of inert, non-hazardous and hazardous sites by July 2004. We need to establish what is happening with waste to landfill at moment. Which of these sites will close and which new sites will be established to accept hazardous waste, if any. Will any non hazardous waste sites provide separate cells for asbestos waste? Concerns regarding asbestos waste were also raised. It was suggested that perhaps someone in the UK or Europe has produced information on asbestos waste, perhaps the housing executive has details on amounts of asbestos still used in buildings.

Action: EHS to investigate asbestos issues raised by contacting Housing Executive, Health and Safety and CIF

Action: COUNCILS; NWRWMG, ARC21, SWMP – to assess current situation on landfill disposal, if any sites will continue after July 2004 to accept hazardous waste

Action: EPD to contact Colin McCloud to provide the Forum with update on Landfill Directive

Action: PSDoE to check planning applications regarding hazardous waste landfill sites

Chair suggested two priority actions :

1. Work should commence on priority waste streams;
Asbestos and Oily Water Mixtures
2. Identify other priority waste streams

The regulations will come into force November 2003, the ban on liquids will be immediate and the lead-in period will be short

Data collection should be improved – for GB and All Ireland dimensions

Irish DOE and NI EHS should meet and produce a report on legal or illegal movements

EHS and Local Authorities should work together

Hazardous Waste terminology will change with additions e.g. Fridges & Freezers

The receiving council is responsible for cross-border movements

Action: EHS to produce information regarding waste moving across the border

Action: EPD to approach DOE LG for their figures – How they are dealing with landfill and hazardous waste movements?

TOR section (B)

Chair suggested key stakeholders produce a waste reduction report on policy and financial instruments for the next meeting – including how existing instruments may be changed or adapted to encourage hazardous waste reduction e.g. CBI use of grants from DOE, INI no. of grant incentive schemes (envirowise is a UK scheme)

Action: CBI, NI Env. Link & INI to look at objective B in TOR and produce a short discussion paper

TOR section (D)

Chair suggested action on users e.g. Councils and Waste Industry – what is needed from government in terms of advice & guidance – WEEE, ELV, Landfill, forthcoming legislation

Action: SWMP, McQEnv, INI & CBI: to produce two reports

1. A position paper
2. A questionnaire to illicit more detailed views

Action: UKORA to provide information on changes to legislation and its impact on the oil industry

Feedback from DEFRA Forum:

Documentation circulated from the previous DEFRA meeting

CD distributed on guidance on classification of Hazardous Waste (NOT Special Waste)

Chair suggested a half-hour presentation from Roland Arnison re: Household Hazardous Waste

Action: Agreed to invite Roland Arnison

A.O.B.: NO

Date of next meeting 4th September 2003