

# Northern Ireland Hazardous Waste Forum

## Report of First Meeting

3<sup>rd</sup> June 2003, at 10.00am in Clarence Court, Belfast

### Forum Attendees :

David Wilson (Chair), Pat Corker (EHS Waste Strategy), Brian Lewis (CBI), Nigel Martin (arc 21), Barry Johnston (UK Oil Recycling Association), Gillian Stewart (INI), Jason McPolin (Irish Waste Environmental Services), Jim McGrath (North West Region Waste Management Group), Desi Wreath (North West Region Waste Management Group), Derek Duncan (Southern Waste Management Partnership), Richard Burnett (arc21), Tim Irwin (Environmental Policy Division, Department of the Environment), Harold Bennett (Wilson Waste Management), Cecil Hamill (McQuillan Envirocare), Pamela Patterson (EHS Waste Operations Manager), Claire O'Neill (EHS Hazardous Waste Section), Patricia McPeake (EHS Hazardous Waste Section), Allison Townley (EHS Hazardous Waste Section).

Apologies from Ken Forbes (Southern Waste Management Partnership)

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### Introduction to the Forum

1. Chair introduced the meeting and EHS provided a brief background on the context of hazardous waste in relation to the sub-regional waste management plans and the significance of setting up a forum.
2. Chair provided an update on the work of the Hazardous Waste Forum chaired by DEFRA. The forum was set up in February 2003 as a result of a House of Commons Select Committee report on Hazardous Waste. Key elements to date include:
  - Recognition of need for partnership between Government and other stakeholders
  - Implications of impending legislation
  - Use of policy instruments
  - Look at best practice in Europe
  - Identification of priority waste streams; waste oil, construction and demolition waste, contaminated soils and filter cake from effluent treatment plants
  - Updates on WEEE, RoHS and ELV Directives

Discussion ensued on Northern Ireland representation on the DEFRA Forum and the links between the two forums. EHS suggested that both EHS and David Wilson could act as a conduit between both groups. This was accepted subject to further local authority consideration via NILGA

**Action: Local Authorities to discuss and provide response at next meeting**

## Position Report

3. EHS presented a short report on legislative drivers and statistical information on special waste movements in Northern Ireland for 2002 in order to assist focus on main issues. Key points raised were:
  - Accuracy of EWC code assignment
  - Need for breakdown of statistics for waste deposited at landfill sites viz a viz solid and liquids
  - Need to access the aims of the forum prior to taking a decision on statistical requirements

CBI introduced a paper on concept of a hazardous waste hierarchy and it was agreed to provide this to forum members.

**Action: EHS to provide statistical breakdown of solids and liquids to landfill**  
**EHS to circulate CBI paper**

## Terms of Reference

4. Chair introduced draft framework TOR, based on that of the DEFRA forum TOR, in order to facilitate discussion. Three key issues were raised on the document circulated :
  1. Reduction of hazardous waste [Item C] should appear before adequate network of facilities [Item B] on the TOR
  2. As the Forum was not in a position to ensure facilities were available, [Item B] should be reworded to support the development of a network
  3. The wording should reflect the forum's focus on identifying network needed in the short term and to recommend and support development of facilities for the longer term

There was further general discussion on issues that the forum may wish to address, including :

- Potential for all island solutions
- Limited numbers of end of process facilities available in Northern Ireland at present, centred round transfer and transport
- Financial aid packages available to industry are not effective, efficient or equitable and should be reviewed
- Need for different instruments and ability for forum to consider these instruments and review
- Waste prevention: the forum needs to look at the mechanisms for waste reduction from industry perspective
- Focus should be on command and control
- Policy elements of future legislation will impinge on household hazardous waste. It was agreed that this should be considered as a longer term issue

- Initially should focus on short term issues i.e. direct impact of Landfill Directive
- Need to establish final disposal/recovery route of waste leaving Northern Ireland to Great Britain
- Discussion followed on the impact of illegal activities involving hazardous waste. Waste Management Industry agreed they would provide an estimated figure for illegal movements.

**Action:**        **EHS to redraft TOR and circulate before next meeting.**  
**Waste Management to provide estimated figure for illegal activity at next meeting**  
**EHS to contact SEPA and EA to establish destination of waste arriving into GB from NI**  
**EHS to produce report/questionnaire listing details of waste movements out of NI and circulate to 3 waste management companies requesting identification of final disposal/recovery activity for each movement.**  
**Chair to speak to agencies in GB to facilitate improved data information.**

### Industry Perspective and Plans

5. It was recognised that the waste industry is driven by legislation. The way legislation is interpreted is vital and can make or break local industry, particular concerns were raised by the waste oil industry in relation to the introduction of the Waste Incineration Directive.
6. Many waste generators are cost driven and have an environment focus – this objective is to avoid producing waste were possible and then to look at in house treatment. Other companies are corporate driven, for example North American firms focus on elimination of hazardous waste.
7. Invest Northern Ireland plan to focus on waste audits, looking at those businesses which plan to set up recycling facilities and those already established.

### Membership of Forum

8. Discussions followed on the membership of the Forum. It was agreed that present organisations would continue to sit on the Forum with same representatives of those organisations, or in their absence, substitutes to maintain continuity. It was agreed that membership should be opened to the following:
  - Planning Service
  - Republic of Ireland regulatory bodies
  - Small business association
  - British Retail Consortium (N.I. equivalent)
  - Construction Employers Federation

- Chemical Industries Association
- NI Environment Link
- Healthcare body

**Action: EHS/EPD to contact relevant bodies**

### Future Chair

9. Agreed to ask David Wilson to remain as chair, which he agreed and EHS to facilitate secretarial role.

### Organisation of future meetings

10. It was agreed that the next meeting would focus on preparing work plan and finalise on TOR.

**Date of next meeting: 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2003**