

Northern Ireland Hazardous Waste Forum

Report of Third Meeting

4th September 2003, at 10.00am – Fitzwilliam International Hotel

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), Robin Newell (Planning Service, Department for the Environment), Ken Forbes (Southern Waste Management Partnership), Brian Diamond (Health Estates, Department of Health & Social Services), Harold Bennett (Wilson Waste Management), Cecil Hamill (McQuillan Envirocare), Peter Christie (NI Environment Link), Pat Fenton (DOEH&LG, Ireland), Brian Lewis (CBI), Colin MacLeod (EPD), Kevin Hamill (EPD), Aideen Kelly (EHS Hazardous Waste Section), Claire O'Neill (EHS Hazardous Waste Section), Patricia McPeake (EHS Hazardous Waste Section), Allison Townley (EHS Hazardous Waste Section).

Apologies from :

Barry Johnson (UK Oil Recycling Association)
Desi Wreath (North West Region Waste Management Group)
Jason McPolin (Irish Waste Environmental Services)
Derek Duncan (Southern Waste Management Partnership)
Stuart Pollard (Dupont UK)
Pat Corker (EHS Waste Strategy)
Pamela Patterson (EHS Waste Operations Manager)
Nigel Martin (ARC21)

Introductions and welcome new members

1. MINUTES OF MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

Data update

Discussion regarding statistical information on waste leaving N. Ireland to GB. Need to know final disposal/treatment methods for this waste. Work is on going with help of EA/SEPA.

TOR

Amended TOR circulated with minutes was agreed subject to small change in 3.1. EPD voiced concern regarding EPD's resource implications and asked the chair what resources had DEFRA made available to their Forum. The DEFRA secretariat inputs 2 X 1/3-1/2 FTEs. EA has accessed consultants to provide information as has DEFRA, EHS can access consultative support if required. EPD to clarify their support to Forum.

Landfill Sites

A short report (see attachment) detailing the position regarding landfill sites after July '04 for NWRWMG – the probable outcome is that there will be no landfill sites in this area which will accept hazardous waste.

In SWMP region there are presently 6 landfill sites, of these, 3 are licensed to accept hazardous waste – one will definitely not take hazardous waste, the outcome of the other 2 is not known at present.

In the ARC21 region there has been no decision taken on the only licensed facility which presently accepts hazardous waste in the region, it is unlikely the remainder of the sites in this area will accept hazardous waste in the future

Planning Service confirmed there are no planning applications currently for new hazardous landfill sites or for individual cells within existing sites.

A brief summary of imports and exports of wastes (transfrontier shipment of waste movements) for year 2000 was provided by EHS.

Advice and Guidance

CBI and INI provided initial review of present situation.

Action: SWMP and McQENV to provide further input on position paper. SWMP, McQENV, INI and CBI to produce a questionnaire to illicit more detailed views

Household hazardous waste

Roland Arnison agreed to provide a presentation to the Forum at a later date.

2. UPDATE ON LANDFILL DIRECTIVE

EPD provided the Forum with current position on Landfill Regulations and the Waste Acceptance Criteria (WAC). Consultation paper to be issued at the end of October or beginning of November. Way ahead – future consultation, stakeholders group to be set up, regulations to be introduced by Dec 03 or Jan 04

EPD intend to meet with Waste Management groups within the next month.

A general discussion ensued regarding concerns of not having hazardous waste capacity in NI, UK not permitting the export of hazardous waste for disposal at present (UK Import Export Plan on Waste). Is the option to allow for a separate cell within a non hazardous landfill site been highlighted enough. 45% of the 5,000 tonnes of waste landfilled in Northern Ireland in 2002 was asbestos. Industry indicated they would be willing to invest but financial assistance would also be needed. England and Wales have over 200 sites at present but it is predicted this will reduce to 14 sites by July 2004. Concern was raised at the possibility of a monopoly situation occurring should only one hazardous waste site operate in NI.

3. HAZARDOUS WASTE IN THE R.O.I.

The Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government in Ireland provided the Forum with information on the management of hazardous waste in the Republic of Ireland. The ROI produced a National Hazardous Waste Management Plan in 2001 Waste Plan and a National Waste Database Report 2001 which provides both data on hazardous waste arisings as well as other waste data. 492,000 tonnes arising (includes agricultural waste), 48,000 tonnes are estimated to be un-reported, 275,000 tonnes are

exported to Netherlands, Belgium, Finland and Denmark, 217,000 tonnes are re-covered on site.

The general feeling is that hazardous waste controls are reasonable. There are 16 hazardous waste recovery facilities, the only outlets apart from recovery at present are export.

In the immediate future the EPA will be setting up a Core Prevention Team and the Department have organised an information campaign – starting with national TV ads, plus local campaigns. They have recently established a similar stakeholder group to that of the Forum. The Committee met in June and will meet again later in Sept '03 – an invitation was extended to DOE NI to attend the next meeting.

The Forum then had a general discussion on cross border issues. A Core Waste Prevention team could be set-up on an all-Ireland basis – a cross-border body could be set-up.

State aid available – State aid to private sector needs clarification by EU – no application at present. Two member states working together may make it easier to get state aid. No hazardous waste being landfilled in ROI at present.

Grant aid – should be a level playing field for councils and private companies

If barriers came down then this would allow ROI and NI access to grant aid

30 million Euro is raised per annum in ROI – 2 million allocated to the start-up cost for the Core Prevention Team, other amounts allocated to grants for re-cycling, bring centres, awareness programme and enforcement.

Chair requested ROI representative to explore an all Ireland dimension to hazardous waste.

4. PRIORITY WASTE STREAMS – ORAL UPDATE

4.1 Waste Oils – A report was provided by the Oil recycling Association.

Action: To be discussed at next meeting

4.2 Asbestos – EHS gave a brief outline on findings : H&S executive issued new regulations Jan 2003 – non-domestic premises, no specific quantities were included NIHE – has conducted a survey on 20 buildings (not NIHE houses) no quantities available, no surveys yet on NIHE houses – removal of asbestos does occur but mainly on houses which are due to be renovated (planned work)

General discussion on asbestos – there will not be a ban on the use of asbestos in the near future. Most asbestos exists in concrete wall & roof panels, there is no driver for removal only scare issues – such as the recent Dept. of Education issues. Cannot compare yearly figures as EHS database can only provide figures from 2001.

5. REDUCTION AND MINIMISATION

CBI, NIEL and INI presented a discussion paper on TOR section B looking at financial Instruments, development of hazardous waste hierarchy and information and advice.

We need to look at hazardous waste more specifically

Need a way to evaluate waste streams – how can we best spend £x to help NI as an entity, allocation of financial assistance/grant aid.

General discussion – landfill tax being revised ; take example of the setting up of the Core prevention team in ROI

Possible sources of funding – waste management funds, regional development fund

Landfill Tax Credit Scheme – Environmental waste minimisation audits - grant availability; companies all know about it – unsure if its going to go ahead

It was suggested that the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme should be explored.

ACTION: EPD to provide Forum with an update on the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme at the next meeting

ACTION: EHS to provide Forum with an update on the Waste Management Fund at the next meeting

6. AOB

Chair circulated 1st draft of the Action Plan produced by the Strategy sub group of the DEFRA Hazardous Waste Forum – informed everyone that this was a privileged document and should not go outside Forum membership.

It was suggested that the Northern Ireland Forum look at 6 tables and recommended actions of the Action Plan in the context of Northern Ireland.

General discussion – EHS requested that DEFRA edit sentences to recognise the NI Forum. Comments are requested by the 12th Sept so that the DEFRA document can be modified if required. The aim is to publish the DEFRA Plan by the end of Oct or beginning of Nov – the NI HWF deadline for advice to be ready is by the end of Jan '04.

Section 3 – need for information programmes, training and public awareness – this builds on the information and advice needs of the two groups currently working together

We need to move forward from the paper just presented to us, and INI, CBI & NIEL to come back to the Forum with a Hazardous Waste minimisation waste scheme

We need to begin to focus on specific areas for NI. When preparing advice, the most important thing is the content

Section 5 : 1st recommended action (5.1a – planning)

Facilities in NI/ all Ireland/ export to GB/ export elsewhere

Additional resources – consultancy – consult with interested parties including DEFRA and ROI and report on findings

Plan – what facilities are needed and what they should be, focus on the content.

Provide the initial seed – problem with the landfill directive – look at an all Ireland and UK basis

Appropriate to look at one of the regional groups with inputs from the other two groups

ARC 21 to pull together what they are doing and discuss with the consultants through EHS.

Actions :

Sections 1&2 : EHS, EPD, ARC21 & WW

Section 3 : SWMP, McQEnv, CBI & INI

Section 4 : INI, CBI & NIEL

Section 5 : PS, DOELG, ARC21, McQEnv & EHS

Section 6 : NWRWGMG & CHAIR

Chair – read through all the papers focussing on the tables – each group needs to liase and EHS will help to facilitate this if needs be

Date of next meeting : Thursday 6th November – 10.30am, Ramada Hotel, Shaws Bridge,