

NORTHERN IRELAND HAZARDOUS WASTE FORUM

Report of Fifteenth Meeting held 8th June 2006 Malone House, Belfast

Attendees

David Wilson (Chairman)	Patricia Donnan (DHSSPS)
Richard Burnett (arc21)	Allison Townley (EHS)
Sandy Truesdale (EPG)	Pamela Patterson (EHS)
Wendy Cooke (EPG)	Suzanne Eastwood (NI Demolition Assoc)
Harold Bennett (Wilson Waste)	Peter Christie NI Environmental Link)
Brian Lewis (CBI)	Niamh Drew (DOE (HLGS))
Gillian Stewart (INI)	John Knox (EHS)
Jason McPolin (Irish Waste)	Linda Robinson (EHS)
Mark McAdoo (SWaMP)	Barry Johnston (ORA)

Apologies

Jim McGrath (NWRWMG)	Billy McClintock (H & S Executive)
Ken Forbes (SWaMP)	Carl Stuart (H & S Executive)
Noel Scott (Planning)	Kate Creaner (McQuillans)
Trevor Knipe (INI)	Cecil Hamill (McQuillans)
Brian Meaney (EPA)	Pat Fenton (DOEHLG)

1. Introduction

New members were welcomed.

2. Minutes of the last meeting and Actions arising

The minutes were accepted subject to amendment.

Section 4 wording in regard to section 2.2 to be amended

Section 5 "pilot waste locator tool " amended to read "waste locator scheme"

Section 6: Letter issued by chairman to be noted

CBI to send the Secretariat information regarding the exemption of aerospace parts from WEEE Legislation and then this will be circulated to the members.

3. Approval of final Implementation Plan for 2006

- *Confirmation by members*
Arc21 and SWaMP were content with the Implementation Plan. There were no other objections, the Plan was approved and the Secretariat confirmed it would be put on the EHS website.

4. Regulatory System

EPG UPDATE

- *Progress on implementation of the Hazardous Waste Regulations and liaison with other administrations*

EPG confirmed that guidance on the Hazardous Waste Legislation had been issued, however, guidance on exemptions for hazardous waste under the Waste Management Licensing system had not yet been issued. EPG are awaiting the outcome of discussions between DEFRA and the Commission on proposed hazardous waste licensing exemptions for England and Wales before going out to consultation in Northern Ireland.

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

EPG reported that there are now approximately 10/15 Authorised Treatment Facilities for ELV's. There is a contract set up with an ATF for all abandoned vehicles to ensure that they are all treated correctly. The issue of when an ELV becomes Hazardous Waste remains unresolved. Discussions between the devolved administrations and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) were still taking place. EPG to report on the position at the next meeting.

There has been a policy review on WEEE following a period of consultations. DTI are due to produce a consultation document this summer.

The Batteries Directive has been agreed and should appear in the Official Journal later this year. It is anticipated that regulations will be in place by 2008. The Directive will be implemented by way of UK legislation with DTI taking the lead. Discussion took place and the members were made aware that within 4 years of the regulations coming into operation 25% of all waste batteries should be recycled. Only Lead batteries, Nickel/Cadmium batteries and batteries containing mercury are deemed

as hazardous waste, any mixed loads of batteries would result in the whole load being classified as hazardous. Currently two district councils (Banbridge and Armagh) were participating in a pilot scheme for kerbside collection of batteries and now most civic amenity sites cater for waste battery deposits.

- *New Legislation on enforcement*

New Legislation on enforcement was currently being drafted and would be laid before Parliament later this year. The Forum invited EPG to give a presentation to the next forum regarding the changes.

EHS Update:

- *Review of the Import/Export Plan*

EHS reported that there were no further developments as the Waste Shipment Regulations have yet to be finalised but this is proving problematic due to translation difficulties.

- *Regulatory Activities*

EHS reported that there had been difficulties due to flood in Commonwealth House and the relocation of the Hazardous Waste Section to Brookmount Buildings

There are now additional staff in place with more to join the unit over the summer. Site visits have re-commenced. All illegal activity is now being directed through the Environmental Crime Section in the Land and Resource Management Unit. After a brief discussion it was agreed that EHS would provide a 6 monthly update on illegal activity with the first report due at the next meeting.

The annual report on Hazardous Waste due July 2006 will slip due to relocation issues.

- *Fly Capture*

The Fly Capture programme has been parked at present due to on-going discussions between NILGA and the Department regarding roles and responsibilities of councils . It was reported that the programme just recorded incidents but not tonnages of waste involved. This was not satisfactory for the needs of the Forum and it was agreed that EHS would provide data regarding the tonnage of illegal Hazardous Waste moved for the next meeting.

5. Communications and Awareness

- *INI Update*

INI reported that the web pages had been drafted. They would be subject to review and hopefully on the website from Summer 2006.

Case Studies are under way with the help of Envirowise and the Green Technology Group examining the benefits to companies on recycling materials.

Environment Clubs will not be running again.

The total percentage of calls received to INI and Envirowise helps line for the year ended 31.3.06 was as follows -

Helpline	Total Calls	Hazardous Waste Calls	Percentage
INI	709	103	15%
Envirowise	119	16	13 %

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

Wilson Waste have been marketing their new “twin box service” aimed at the small office section of the market. The representative explained that these dedicated boxes were for the collection of small amounts of hazardous waste. The aim being to ensure small businesses are compliant with the regulations.

- *Update on Household Hazardous Waste (HSE, DCs, EPG - section 2.2 Of the Implementation Plan)*

Although no one from H & S Executive attended the meeting a report was received from them showing that since the advisory helpline had been set up 20% of the calls received related to the disposal of asbestos.

There had been no meeting between the technical officers of councils and H& S Executive since the last meeting. Although there was no problem at present, it was suggested that if the H & S Executive’s leaflets on asbestos were to be revised, the Forum should be informed with the council representatives being the first point of contact.

Discussion took place and arc21 advised that 2 councils in the arc21 region had looked at the feasibility of taking asbestos at civic amenity sites concluding it was not cost effective. There was a discussion regarding the collection and storage of WEEE and waste paints at civic amenity sites. Members were informed that WEEE storage was presently part of the discussions held by DOE/DTI and hopefully it would be resolved soon.

EHS indicated that licences were being reviewed to ensure that the majority of civic amenity sites could receive WEEE, with regard to the collection of paints there were issues concerning its safe storage. ARC21 said that in their WM Plan there was a section regarding community repaint scheme as one way to overcome the problem of waste paint. The Forum asked arc21 to give a presentation at the next meeting on community repaint schemes.

6. **Encouraging the 4Rs**

- *INI update*

INI advised that a couple of businesses are using the waste categorising tools on a trial basis at present. This should be completed by end of June. Regarding the locator map a consultants report will be due at the end of month. The Forum asked that a presentation by INI was given at the next meeting on the subject.

The Knockmore Resource Efficiency Environmental Cluster demonstration project is being undertaken by Envirowise. This involves eco mapping, bench marking and looking at characterisation. It has not yet been completed but to date there does not appear to be a lot on Hazardous Waste. The Forum asked that Envirowise make a presentation at the December 2006 meeting.

- *Update on Priority Waste Streams*

ORA said the collection of waste oil had not suffered with the introduction of Directive but there was confusion regarding recycled fuel oil and what can happen to it. There was a UK wide problem in that there were operators under cutting others who were complying with the legislation.

EHS reported that since the last meeting the landfill site which had a single cell for asbestos waste had received its waste management licence and was now accepting asbestos waste.

INI advised that there was no further update on Landfill Tax escalator money.

7. **Facility Provision**

- *Update from DCs on their waste plans (and provision for hazardous waste)*

SWaMP reported that their Waste Management Plan had been adopted by councils and included a chapter on hazardous waste.

Arc21 advised that they held a public consultation regarding their plan and had a dedicated chapter on hazardous waste. There were 11 public meetings and 2 information exchange forums (1 for the public and 1 for businesses, NGO's etc) and responses had been largely positive. There was only one comment received specifically relating to hazardous waste concerning the question on how ash produced from any potential energy from waste facility would be dealt with.

The plans will be submitted to the Department for their determination by 30.6.06 but the length of the determination period has not been finalised. It was clarified that within the Hazardous Waste chapter they had determined the types of priority facilities required and the Statement of Facility Needs report had also been reflected within the plan. SWaMP and arc21 agreed to forward their respective hazardous waste chapters to the secretariat for circulation to the members.

- *Update from ROI*

The ROI representative reported that the National Hazardous Waste Plan review is currently underway and that three draft reports have been issued so far (Initial consultation report: Technical Options Policy Report and the Existing situation review report). The focus so far has been on internal solutions and then will look at an all island solution.

A Steering Group workshop is planned for 19.7.06 with the aim to publish a draft strategic report by August 2006. It is hoped that a draft consultation paper will be issued early 2007.

ROI agreed to give a presentation at the next meeting.

The Hazardous Waste Incinerator cited in Cork is subject to judicial review. The municipal waste incinerators cited in Meath is also subject to a judicial review. An impact assessment is being prepared for the Dublin City municipal waste incinerator.

The Minister has signed off the regulations to implement the ELV Directive and they are due to come into operation today. All the authorised treatment facilities must be registered by November 2006 with take back responsibility required by Jan 2007.

It was agreed that an update on WEEE directive within ROI would be emailed to the secretariat and then distributed to the members.

The Department are currently preparing a proposal to be put forward to Government on the introduction of a waste regulator for ROI. This would then go out for public consultation.

- *Update from Planning Service*

Although no representative from the Planning Service attended. A update was given as follows –

5 applications have been received for recycling ELV
2 applications have been received for storage of ELV
2 applications have been received for transfer stations for asbestos
1 application for a WEEE facility and one for storage of WEEE
2 applications for Hazardous Waste Transfer Stations
It was agreed that the secretariat would circulate the report to the members.

8. **AOB**

None

9. **Date of Next Meeting**

7th September 2006
14th December 2006

Appendix A: SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

	ACTION POINT	Who is responsible
1	CBI to send the Secretariat information regarding the exemption of aerospace parts from WEEE Legislation	CBI
2	EPG to give a presentation to the next Forum re changes in enforcement legislation	EPG
3	EPG to give a report on when an ELV will become a Hazardous Waste	EPG
4	EHS to give a 6 monthly report from the environmental crime unit starting September 2006	EHS
5	EHS to prepare a report on the tonnages of Hazardous Waste moved for the next meeting	EHS
6	Arc21 to give a presentation on unused paint to the next meeting	ARC21
7	INI to give a presentation on business tools to the next meeting	INI
8	Envirowise to give a presentation in December 2006	Envirowise
9	SWaMP & ARC21 to give Secretariat a copy of the Hazardous Waste chapter from their Waste Management Plans	SWMP& ARC21
10	ROI to give a presentation on the National Hazardous Waste Plan review to the next meeting	ROI
11	ROI to give Secretariat an update on WEEE directive	ROI
12	Secretariat to circulate a report from planning service	Secretariat