

Northern Ireland Hazardous Waste Forum

Report of Fifth Meeting

18th December 2003, at 10.30am – Ramada Hotel, Belfast

Forum Attendees :

David Wilson (Chair), Richard Burnett (ARC 21), Tim Irwin (Environmental Policy Division, Department of the Environment), Gillian Stewart (INI), Noel Scott (Planning Service, Department of the Environment), Robert Newell (Planning Service, Department for the Environment), Francis Marsh (Health Estates, Department of Health & Social Services), Cecil Hamill (McQuillan Envirocare), Dara Breathnach (DOEH&LG, Ireland), Brian O'Neill (EPD), Jason McPolin (Irish Waste Environmental Services), Peter Christie (NI Environment Link), Mark McAdoo (Southern Waste Management Partnership), Brian Lewis (CBI), Barry Johnston (Oil Recycling Assoc), Aideen Kelly (EHS Hazardous Waste Section), Helen Caughey (Hazardous Waste Section), Patricia McPeake (EHS Hazardous Waste Section), Allison Townley (EHS Hazardous Waste Section), Pat Corker (EHS Waste Strategy), Pamela Patterson (EHS Waste Operations Manager)

Apologies from :

Jim McGrath (North West Region Waste Management Group)
Desi Wreath (North West Region Waste Management Group)
Ken Forbes (Southern Waste Management Partnership)
Nigel Martin (ARC21)
Trevor Knipe (INI)
Harold Bennett (Wilson Waste Management)
Derek Duncan (Southern Waste Management Partnership)

Introductions and welcome new members

MINUTES OF MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

There were two amendments to the minutes of the last meeting : Include Mr B Johnston in list of attendees, and make a minor change to the last sentence of previous minutes

EHS Website

1. All agendas, minutes and other information pertaining to the Northern Ireland Hazardous Waste Forum – up to and including the 3rd meeting are already on the website

Landfill Tax Credit Scheme

2. EHS confirmed that BDO Stoy Hayward are conducting a review of the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme on behalf of the EHS. Kirk McClure & Morton were sub contracted to carry out work – an interim report has been produced and a presentation to this HWF may be given pending agreement with Jim Brown EHS. LTCS could be a potential funding source for this group – money will be dispensed from April. Individual companies could also make use of this potential resource.

Waste Management Fund

3. EHS informed the Forum that there had been a reduction in applications from the 1st to the 2nd schemes – 13 applications are through to the next stage of which 3 relate to Hazardous waste – panel to meet with INI again in the new year to progress. A cap of 30% is set of total project costing. INI concentrate on business content, EHS concentrate on waste content, all applications require statutory consent.

NILGA

4. The Arc21 representative indicated that following the last meeting, the NILGA waste group expressed a wish for an elected member representation on the HWF – perhaps to sit in as an observer.
The Chair indicated that the Forum was a technical working group. Perhaps the Forum could offer feedback to NILGA on a regular basis through presentations. As Household Hazardous Waste is one of the main hazardous waste issues, the Forum could invite the Household Hazardous Waste Forum in GB to organise a workshop in Northern Ireland directed at councils and their elected members.
EHS to distribute minutes of all previous HWF meetings to all councils who do not have access to the EHS website.

Action: EHS to respond to NILGA and issue copies of minutes of previous HWF meetings

Regulatory Progress Report

5. EHS gave a brief outline on the current Waste Management Licensing : - EHS regulator with effect from 19/12/03 – (a Waste Disposal Licence is now known as a Waste Management Licence) the EHS will look at each licence in due course. Jan 2005 Hazardous Waste Installations will change to IPPC – majority of licences will not change unless an adverse environmental impact issue – Landfill site licences will be looked at first and then the dismantler Licence under ELV Directive.
A general discussion ensued – most licences will remain the same, if a variation is required then EHS will look at variations, modifications or surrenders. EHS has just had quite a number of new staff recruited and this will lead to more staff on the ground monitoring and enforcing the new regulations. Issue of exemptions for Special Waste were discussed.
England will be going down route of permitting for ELV requirements, in Northern Ireland it will be streamlined via Waste Management Licensing, the Landfill regs come into force on 6th Jan 2004.
EHS informed the group that they will be looking at the Landfill Regs. – the site conditioning plans – the WAC, nature of waste and its treatment – copies available from the EHS – comments from the Forum would be appreciated

Action: EHS to look at issue of exemptions and report back at next HWF meeting

Hazardous Waste Regulations

6. EPD gave a brief outline – EPD received a further draft copy of the regulations for England– comments to be submitted between Christmas and the New Year, EPD to meet in Jan re – cross border movements (English and Scottish), EPD to take package of comments to meeting. It is the intention of NI to have a similar system as the Scottish Agency.
The Scottish proposal (which is similar to system already in operation) is significantly different to the DEFRA proposal which concentrates on Producer Registration and quarterly returns

A general discussion ensued – Waste Industry rep. suggested that more emphasis should be put on the producer rather than the collector or carrier.

The issue of a complete tracking system between NI, Scotland, England and Wales was raised – EHS suggested a one note system (going right through to final point of destination – which may be a waste transfer station) rather than different notes for the various jurisdictions.

Action: EHS to ask DEFRA if first draft of the Hazardous Waste Regulations for England can be circulated to Forum. EHS to circulate Scottish Executive's draft regulations to Forum.

Priority Waste Streams

7. CBI suggested that Chemicals should also be considered a priority waste stream and gave outline of reasoning– new technology is becoming available – funding for schemes is required. Where or how do you access these funds – Waste Industry Fund, INI schemes, interest free loans, grants?

General discussion – Chair agreed with sentiments, these are all important for hazardous waste management in NI – however the Chair is not sure if it is necessary to add another priority waste stream into the Action Plan.

EHS suggested that the reason for including asbestos and waste oil as priority waste streams is due to imminent threat to present outlets due to various Directives whereas the majority of the chemical waste streams indicated in the CBI presentation has always had historic outlets in England. The Chair indicated that these issues can be taken up through the Action Plan – waste minimisation and policy framework – Chair suggested that there was still some work to do in this area to make recommendations specific to NI.

Action: EHS to circulate CBI presentation

Capacity Needs

8. EHS circulated an update report from the capacity sub-group which identified issues e.g. details of waste leaving NI – the EA and SEPA to provide details – consultants may access EA database and interrogate it for details if necessary. The consultants also propose to look at capacity needs in the ROI via the EPA. Sub-group should meet early Jan 2004 to give their comments.

DOE H&LG Ireland representative discussed hospital/clinical waste indicating the licensed capacity of facilities in ROI is greater than the volume being actually treated – DOE H&LG Ireland will look at the constraints and pass the information back to the Forum. In relation to other hazardous waste streams, there is little or no capacity in Ireland. The EPA are concerned with unreported waste. The proposed incinerator in Co Cork is at final planning stage – permission should be granted – however conditions on use are not yet clear, the Forum will be kept informed. One area where hazardous waste is produced in ROI is in the treatment of sheep on agricultural premises. The representative asked how organo phosphates (sheep dip) were dealt with in NI. EHS informed the group that although this waste stream is not controlled under the Special Waste Regs (waste from Agriculture is not controlled waste), sheep dip is controlled under the Groundwater Regulations.. The Water Management Unit or DARD codes of practice apply.

Action: EHS to extend invitation to EPA to next meeting

Action: EHS to speak to Water Quality re data available for disposal of this type of waste

EHS inquired if there was any capacity for the ROI to accept NI waste? DOE H&LG Ireland suggested that there maybe restrictions placed by the planning authority – to keep Forum informed.

EHS informed the Forum that the Dargan Rd site will no longer be accepting hazardous waste from March 2004. Both Tullyvar and Lisbane have restrictions on both their sites – The Scottish and English facilities are also facing a similar problem, with severe reductions on numbers of sites accepting hazardous waste. An information workshop, presentation or press release are required to inform all interested parties of the imminent crisis.

Chair questioned the fly-tipping of asbestos issue – because of new asbestos regs. and risk assessments in April 2004 fly-tipping of asbestos may become a major issue (quantity unknown as there are no accurate figures)

Chair suggested a one-off round table discussion with reps. from the asbestos industry to map out the problem and suggest solutions

EHS enquired about asbestos issue in ROI – DOE H&LG Ireland - to keep Forum informed

Action: EHS to issue invitations to all interested parties, including those on this Forum – more than one invitation to be issued to CBI

Draft Action Plan

9. Chair circulated copies of the draft Action Plan and gave a general overview of how the Plan had progressed – progress was limited. Chair proposed that the sub-groups meet again in January and review what has already been done – concentrate on who does what and when (a template) in the Implementation Action Plan – develop these together, make it specific to NI, points have been taken out which are specific to GB but it is necessary to include issues which are specific to NI e.g economic instruments. It is important to get Action Plan published by the end of March.

Action: EHS to organise sub-group meetings and e-mail members

Action: EHS to e-mail DEFRA update

A.O.B.

10. The Chair informed the group that the DTI (England) are organising UK wide awareness workshops on the WEEE directive (consultation paper out at present) – 29th January 2004 Stomont Hotel, attendance is free. EHS is looking at BPEO for a range of waste streams as part of the Strategy review. DEFRA are to carry out a study on BPEO for hazardous waste in May 2004. Chair suggested that the secretariat approach DEFRA to include NI in UK wide BPEO for Hazardous Waste. EHS informed the Forum that although the Municipal Waste Studies pushed forward by DEFRA are UK wide, in reality they are focussed on England and Wales – ARC21 requested time to consider this option, taking into consideration the issue of the land border with the ROI and agreed to come back to the secretariat.

Date of next meeting : Wednesday 11th February 2004 – 10.30am, Ramada Hotel, Shaws Bridge, Belfast.