

Northern Ireland Hazardous Waste Forum

Report of Fourth Meeting

6th November 2003, at 10.30am – 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), Robin Newell (Planning Service, Department for the Environment), Brian Elliott (Health Estates, Department of Health & Social Services), Harold Bennett (Wilson Waste Management), Cecil Hamill (McQuillan Envirocare), Jason McPolin (Irish Waste Environmental Services), Dara Breathnach (DOEH&LG, Ireland), Brian O'Neill (EPD), Barry Johnston (UK Oil Recycling Association), Roger Cresswell (UK Oil Recycling Association), Aileen Kelly (EHS Hazardous Waste Section), Patricia McPeake (EHS Hazardous Waste Section), Allison Townley (EHS Hazardous Waste Section).

Apologies from:

Brian Lewis (CBI)
Desi Wreath (North West Region Waste Management Group)
Derek Duncan (Southern Waste Management Partnership)
Ken Forbes (Southern Waste Management Partnership)
Peter Christie (NI Environment Link)
Nigel Martin (ARC21)
Claire O'Neill (EHS Hazardous Waste Section)
Pat Corker (EHS Waste Strategy)
Pamela Patterson (EHS Waste Operations Manager)

Introductions and welcome new members

MINUTES OF MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed

TOR

1. EPD confirmed their continued support to the Forum

Amended TOR circulated with minutes was discussed and agreed.

It was recognised that EPD's contribution to the Forum is very important. Members were also informed that details of the Forum are due to be forwarded to the Minister.

Advice and Guidance

2. To return to at a later time

R.O.I. Representative

3. Chair requested the ROI representative explore the All Island dimension

Landfill Tax Credit Scheme

4. EPD to provide Forum with information on the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme

Action: EPD to e-mail Forum members with an update before next meeting

NWRWMG informed the Forum that the Department has employed consultants who are

presently asking councils for their views. Members suggested it might be valuable to ask the consultants to address the Forum

Action: EPD to investigate the possibility of the consultants speaking to the Forum

Waste Management Fund

5. EHS informed the Forum that the waste management fund group was actually meeting today, 6th November, to consider the applications.

Action: EHS to provide Forum with an update at the next meeting

AGENDA

Oil Recycling Association – Presentation

6. Mr Roger Cresswell gave a presentation to the Forum on behalf of the Oil Recycling Association – this was followed by a short question and answer session

Review of DEFRA Action Plan

7. Each sub-group took various sections of the DEFRA Action Plan and considered it from the Northern Ireland perspective

Regulatory Systems – Section 1 (was sections 1&2)

- The sub-group gave a brief outline of their proposed changes: the sub-group generally took on board most of the items contained in this section of the draft document
- Chair informed the group that the DEFRA Forum were working on the Implementation Plan as the Implementation Plan and the Action Plan need to go together. The Chair asked for EPD's thinking in terms of transposition, content, time etc. of the Hazardous Waste Regulations. EPD are presently looking at the working draft of the Hazardous Waste Regulations produced by DEFRA. Chair enquired if EPD were aware of any other issues being included in the GB regs which N.I. would have concerns about; producer registration and consignment notes. EPD indicated that producer registration was not on the cards for Northern Ireland. EPD hope to implement new regulations by July 2004 and stressed the need to look at the transposition in each administration area to ensure consistency throughout UK and intend to discuss with the other devolved administrations.
- INI enquired how all the new regs etc would be communicated to industry. EHS intend to have workshops, information days etc.
- EHS gave a brief outline of the content of DEFRA's draft proposals including pre-notification, producer registration, quarterly returns, costs and fixed penalty fines. The chair questioned the time scale to agree the draft regs, the consultation and the RIA within a 3 month consultation period and have all ready by July '04? EPD believe this is achievable and have already started some work on the areas involving infraction proceedings by the European Commission.

Action: EPD to give an update at each Forum meeting

Action: DOE H&LG Ireland to investigate any work done by them on capacity issues

EHS discussed enforcement work, consideration of the UK import export plan and the new enforcement team of the EPA. Health Estates indicated their interest in the North/South considerations in respect to clinical waste.

Chair concluded - a good 1st draft to section 1 – consideration should be given to reflect the N.I. position – consider the all Island / all Ireland dimension, regulations, doing things together, an enforcement team, possibility of a prevention team on an all Ireland basis

Action: EHS to invite EPA onto the Forum

Communication, Awareness Raising and Data (Section 3)

The sub-group gave a brief outline of their findings; so far concerns were raised regarding guidance to public

A query was raised on the relevance of costs. EHS indicated that because of the Landfill directive costs will increase, costs to producers will also increase, and that industry may need to look at more innovative technologies or incentives to reduce waste. Chair suggested that costs might increase by as much as 60%, with legislation on co-disposal and landfill he would expect costs to increase by 10 times – this would be an opportunity for industry to invest. Discussions ensued on targeting of guidance, establishment of a helpline, public perception.

Encouraging Hazardous Waste Reduction, Reuse and Recycling (Section 4)

The sub-group gave a brief outline of their findings so far: the group suggested that other bodies should be included. The sub-group suggested that 'grants' should be broadened to 'financial assistance and support'

Action: ORA to assist in this section

Household Hazardous Waste (Section 6)

The sub-group gave a brief outline of their findings so far: they informed the Forum that this section remains largely the same as before, but suggests that Government and Councils issue a joint leaflet and look at infrastructure from collection to disposal.

Capacity Needs (Section 5)

EHS informed the Forum that the sub-group had met however it had not yet reviewed the contents of the section. The group met with the consultants to discuss work on provision of estimation of capacity needs. Update to be provided by Dec and report the findings by Jan. The report should include how we feed into GB – waste from N.I. to GB find out specifically what happens to our waste, look at the ROI and how we might feed into there. The sub-group needs to meet frequently to enable deadlines to be met

Action: EHS to speak to Nigel re – double counting

Action Plan

The Chair thanked the groups for their work so far – the Action Plan should be completed by the end of Jan '04.

Items to be included in the DEFRA Implementation Action Plan:

- Amalgamation of DEFRA items
- Introduction of key issues (easy reading)
- Implementation Action Plan – who, what and when
- Any additional supported information e.g. Enviro report, Waste Oils report etc.

Action: EHS to compile a short Introduction of Key Issues by Dec meeting

Chair requested members to read through the draft carefully and pass any comments to Allison (by 17th Nov) who will in turn issue to the other sub-groups. Chair stressed that this document is still a work in progress document – take time to read through both in content and what could be included e.g. the all Ireland dimension. Particular attention should be paid to appropriate format, is the document moving in the right direction? BPEO – actions added to DEFRA's Forum – the DEFRA advisory document final draft was circulated 30th Sept. All Island dimension needs to be fed into the Capacity sub-group –

Action: DOEHLG, EPA, EHS and a representative from each of the other sub-groups to meet 1st week of Dec

Action: Irish Waste Environmental Services to join sub-group through EHS

8. A.O.B.

Planning Service indicated that at the last NILGA Waste Forum concerns were raised regarding the lack of councillor representation on the Haz Waste Forum. The ARC 21 representative indicated that he would act as conduit between the Forums and he would further investigate NILGA's concerns.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 18th December – 10.30am, Ramada Hotel, Shaws Bridge, Belfast