

Framework TOR

1. Background

- 1.1 The way in which hazardous waste is managed will change significantly over the next few years, driven by a series of European Directives affecting both resource use and waste management. Among other impacts, these Directives will direct hazardous waste away from landfill, impose more stringent requirements for waste treatment and incineration and increase the number of types of waste defined as hazardous. These new treatment requirements and the significant reduction in landfill capacity are likely to increase the costs of waste management.
- 1.2 The Waste Management Strategy for Northern Ireland identified the need to minimise the quantity of hazardous waste that is produced and reduce the hazardous nature of wastes. These principles have also been endorsed by the three sub-regional waste management plans produced by the councils. These plans proposed that a working group should be established to identify the preferred hazardous waste management solutions for both the short and longer term. The Department of the Environment supports this proposal and have agreed to facilitate the establishment of a Forum on Hazardous Waste encompassing Central and Local Government, Waste Producers, the Waste Management Industry and NGOs, to advise on a way forward for safe hazardous waste reduction, recovery and management.
- 1.3 The establishment of this Forum is timely given the developments of similar groups in adjoining administrations. In England and Wales, the Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs(DEFRA) has established a Hazardous Waste Forum, as recommended by the House of Commons Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee. The Republic of Ireland has set up a National Hazardous Waste Management Plan Implementation Committee chaired by the Environmental Protection Agency. The Northern Ireland Hazardous Waste Forum will liaise with these bodies as appropriate.
- 1.4 The operation of the HWF is foreseen as an inclusive process associated with a constructive examination and exploration of hazardous waste management in Northern Ireland.

2. Aims and Objectives of the HWF:

A] To produce within 6 months advice on the way ahead in Northern Ireland, for both the short and medium terms, to achieve hazardous waste reduction and environmentally sound management of such wastes, including advice on key decisions to be made and, the timing of those decisions. The aim of the advice will be to identify the actions that must be taken by each group of stakeholders, in order to ensure the timely provision of authoritative guidance on the implementation of hazardous waste legislation, and to achieve its sound environmental management.

B] To consider the impacts of existing and forthcoming legislation pertaining to hazardous waste, and advise on the content and dissemination of Government advice and guidance to waste generators and waste managers about that legislation.

C] To identify opportunities to reduce the generation of hazardous waste and promote the recovery of that which is generated, utilising where appropriate the recommendations of the DEFRA Forum and adapting where relevant to meet the needs and circumstances of Northern Ireland. In particular, to consider policy measures and financial incentives to encourage reduction of hazardous wastes by industry in Northern Ireland.

D] To identify the facilities to be used in the short-term, and to recommend and support the development of an adequate network of future facilities, to ensure the environmentally sound management of hazardous waste. The recommendations will need to distinguish between those facilities which can practically be provided within Northern Ireland, those which need to be planned/provided on an all island basis, and those which need to be planned/ provided on a Great Britain/ Ireland basis.

E] To provide a better basis for forward planning by providing up to date and reliable data on hazardous waste generation and management, and make any relevant recommendations about how data collection and analysis could be improved; and

F] To inform the forthcoming reviews of the Waste Management Strategy and the sub-regional Waste Management Plans, in terms of how best to integrate requirements for the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes in Northern Ireland.

3. Phasing of Work and Meetings

- 3.1 It follows from the aims and objectives that the Forum should concentrate initially on providing advice on the way forward on hazardous waste reduction and management. This should be its goal for the first 6 months. For the following 18 months the Forum should consider opportunities to reduce the production of hazardous waste and the recovery of that which is produced, the content and dissemination of Government advice, and the provision of a better basis for forward planning through improved data collection.
- 3.2 It is proposed that the Forum should meet every 6-8 weeks during the initial period of 6 months, and thereafter at quarterly intervals, and that its agenda, papers and minutes will be publicly available on the EHS website.
- 3.3 The Forum's *raison d'être* should be reviewed after 2 years.

4. Membership

- 4.1 It is proposed that the following organisations will be full members of the Forum:
- Arc21
 - Confederation of British Industry
 - Construction Employers Federation Ltd (asked to be a *corresponding member*)
 - Northern Ireland Retail Consortium (asked to be a *corresponding member*)
 - Department of Health and Social Services, Health Estates
 - Department of the Environment, Environmental Policy Division
 - Environment and Heritage Service
 - Federation of Small Businesses
 - Invest Northern Ireland
 - Northern Ireland Environment Link
 - North West Region Waste Management Group
 - Planning Service
 - Southern Waste Management Partnership
 - UK Oil Recycling Association
 - 3 Main Hazardous Waste Management Companies:
 - Irish Waste Environmental Services
 - McQuillan Envirocare
 - Wilson Waste Management
 - Northern Ireland Demolition Association
- 4.2 The Forum will invite other organisations/individuals to attend when appropriate.