

Hazardous Waste Forum

Report of Fourth Meeting

On 30 July 2003 at 10am in Room 6A/B, Ashdown House, 123 Victoria Street, London SW1

Forum Attendees

Ray Alderton (Defra), Nick Bethel (Environment Agency), Sylvia Channon (CBI), Faye Clamp (FSB), Paula Coopland (SEPA), Roger Creswell (Oil Recycling Association), Gev Eduljee (ESA - SITA) Sue Ellis (DEFRA), Roger Hewitt (CIWM), Stephen Horrax (Defra), Andy Howarth (Defra), Des Langford (DTI), Tom Spaul (ESA - Onyx), John Peters (The Construction Confederation), David Pocklington (British Cement Association), Alex Radway (CIA), Jaqcu Russell (LGA), Rita Singh (Construction Products Association), Nigel Smith (BRC), Allison Townley (DOENI), Mike Walker (ESA), Roy Watkinson (Environment Agency), Gill Weeks (ESA - Cleanaway), Prof David Wilson (CIWM).

Apologies from Steve Lee (Environment Agency), Phil Russell (LGA), Tom Simpson (ODPM), Ian Mcpherson (UKPIA).

Meeting Summary

The meeting was primarily focussed on the Advisory Document that the Hazardous Waste Forum is producing through ongoing work from the sub groups, as per the Terms of Reference.

The papers discussed throughout the meeting are available on the Defra Hazardous Waste Forum web pages:

<http://defraweb/environment/waste/hazforum/index.htm>

Minutes of last meeting

1. The minutes of the last meeting were agreed. The actions were picked up in subsequent discussion.

Update on Landfill Directive

2. Defra is awaiting final ministerial clearance of the consultation documents by the third week in August, after which they will be writing to stakeholders with the consultation that will last three months.

Update on Hazardous Waste Regulations

3. Although there had been an action on Defra to provide the Forum members with a draft of the Regulations it was with regret that they were not in a form that at this point could be distributed.

Action: Secretariat to distribute a working draft to Forum members before the next meeting.

Action: Secretariat to distribute a 'timetable of the implementation' for the Hazardous Waste Regulations.

Hazardous Waste Forum Advisory Document

4. As part of the Terms of Reference for the Hazardous Waste Forum objective A sets out: 'that the Forum is to advise within 6 months on the way ahead over the next 5 years to achieve hazardous waste reduction and environmentally sound management of such wastes, including advice on key decisions to be made, the timing of those decisions and encompassing consideration of targets for hazardous waste reduction.'

5. The Strategic Framework sub group, chaired by Professor David Wilson, has met up on four occasions to discuss and draw up the structure, key issues and recommendations from the Forum. The three papers presented were on the contents structure (HWF 4.2), draft policy statements (HWF 4.3) and draft introduction and 'commitment to act' (HWF 4.4). It was stressed that these papers were still work in progress and presented for discussion and for comments to be provided on whether the document is moving in the right direction, appropriate format, and correct tone of the document.

6. The importance and timing of the document were stressed, due in part to the pressing recommendations for Government on the implementation and clarity of Regulations.

7. A key issue raised was whether there was the need for a Commitment to Act to be signed by Forum members. The uncertainty of reaching a consensus by stakeholders with their respective industry members in the limited timescale and the need for certainty by government to be in place before stakeholders would carry out their commitment was highlighted.

8. The intention of the Commitment to Act was for it to show that all stakeholders were in agreement with the recommendations from the advisory document and that if each one were implemented then UK plc would be seen to be moving in the right direction.

Action: All Forum members to provide the Secretariat with comments on the three papers by 8 August.

9. The Secretariat and Chair will redraft the advisory document following comments made and distribute a second draft to the Strategic Framework sub group by the end of August. The redraft will be discussed at the meeting in time for a final draft to be sent out to Forum members before the next meeting on the 30 September.

In summary

- Comments and inputs by Forum members by 8 August
- Re-draft and sent to SF sub group by 22 August
- Circulate to Forum for comment by 3 September
- Comments by 10 September
- Circulate to Forum by 23 September

Treatment and Capacity Update

10. The assessment of the future capacity needs is being undertaken; the approach is as follows:

11. In determining hazardous waste arisings all information on special arisings is being collated, to identify best estimate of arising by EWC Codes along with current disposal routes. Then estimate the impact of the change in definition from special to hazardous, to give the estimated hazardous waste arising.

12. The most likely alternative treatment routes for hazardous wastes that are currently landfilled will be assessed by EWC codes, to provide a capacity by treatment route. This will be achieved by drawing together information from:

- EA R&D Technical Report P1-484/TR – Hazardous Waste Management Market Pressures and Opportunities: Background Paper;
- The Agencies: Guidance on the Waste Treatment Requirements of Article 6(a) of the Landfill Directive;
- Information gathered by ESA from it's members; and
- Information supplied by the BCA on the wastes that could be utilised by cement companies either as a fuel or as a raw material substitute.

13. The output will be the best estimate of the capacity required by each treatment route, with sensitivity analysis taking account of where particular wastes could be handled by a range of treatment routes.

14. The estimated capacity will be compared with actual capacity estimates collated by DEFRA, to show areas of over-capacity and shortfalls. To complete the picture, this information will be compared against the issues and timescales associated with developing the new capacity, which is being pulled together by ESA (a draft was distributed at the meeting).

15. Analysis highlights the issue of planning and the possible timescale problems that face capacity being established in the UK for new builds.

Action: ESA to further develop the table and take it out of a table format and in 'written' format under the headings of treatment options.

16. Gill Weeks raised the issue of a draft consultation paper on amendments to the Substitute Fuels Protocol that was presented to REPAC recently, and the possible implications it could have on HTI.

Action: The Environment Agency to provide a response and clarification on the draft REPAC paper, and for it to be distributed to the Forum members.

Environment Agency papers for Forum comment

17. The Environment Agency presented a joint ESA and EA draft paper (HWF 4.5) on best practice and guidance in selected member states, particularly on whether they applied direction or not.

Summary of findings:

- The findings obtained through the contacts made separately by the Agency and the Environmental Services Association are broadly similar.
- No Member States currently have adopted Central Government direction of particular waste streams to particular facilities; one reason cited being the risk of stifling the development of innovative treatment methods.
- Most Member States use a combination of tools that have developed over time leading to alternative treatment / disposal options evolving naturally with no step change needing to be accommodated.
- Three EU Member States investigated reported the usefulness of their hazardous waste strategies /planning systems as important components of their management of hazardous wastes.
- Waste is high up on the political agenda in each country, resulting in public awareness and pressure applied to reduce and recycle waste at source.

18. The second paper presented (HWF 4.6) was a draft research programme on, "Review of current issues and research needs".

19. The third paper was a summary of a paper that should be finalised by mid-August on the possible new producers and quantities of waste once the Hazardous Waste Directive is implemented in England and Wales. The key

figure is that the report estimates a central figure of 750,000 for hazardous waste producers with 7.3 mte per annum of consignable hazardous waste.

Action: All stakeholders to provide comments on the three papers (HWF 4.5, 4.6, 4.7) direct to Roy Watkinson – roy.watkinson@environment-agency.gov.uk

Environment Agency LIFE bid on a hazardous waste reduction programme

20. Gill Ross-Jones gave a presentation on a proposal that the Environment Agency is putting together through LIFE Environment. The programme, “Hazrep”, aims to promote and deliver reduction and sustainable management of critical waste streams using a priority SME sector approach. An outline of the programme was presented in HWF 4.5.

Next Meeting

Date of next Forum meeting – 30 September at Ashdown House

Arising And Minimisation – 8 September Ashdown House
Treatment and Capacity - tba

Details of the meetings can be received through the Secretariat.