

Summary Minutes of Seventh Meeting of the EPA – RPII Merger Working Group (MWG)

Location: DECLG, Custom House

Date: 19 July (9am – 13.30pm)

In attendance:

- Dr. Brian Cawley, IPA, Chair (BC)
- Ms. Laura Burke, Director General, EPA (LB)
- Dr. Ann McGarry, Chief Executive, RPII (AMG)
- Ms. Fiona Quinn, Principal Officer, DECLG (FQ)
- Mr. Terry Dunne, Principal Officer, DECLG (TD)
- Mr. Jim Hurley, EPA (JH) (via video conference)
- Ms. Majella Byrne, EPA (MB) (via video conference)
- Ms. Beatrix Aigner, DECLG (Secretariat)

1./2. Introduction and Feedback from Project Group

JH gave an update on the progress of the Project Group (PG).

With regard to the Action Plan, he noted that the actions had now been collapsed into about 40 essential, merger-critical high-level actions and they are categorised as complex or simple to achieve.

He stated that the paper on the Review of Communications and other corporate arrangements in RPII and EPA had been finalised and three of the actions from the paper had been transferred into the Action Plan.

He then informed the MWG that the PG had carried out some more detailed analysis/assessment of the costs and savings associated with the merger and had revised them based on that assessment in an updated spreadsheet provided to the MWG.

The MWG and the Chair expressed their appreciation for all the work done by the PG and the subject specialists on this process. MB asked the MWG to convey the PG's appreciation to Ms. Stella McKervey, DECLG, for her assistance in the work of the PG. JH and MB then left the meeting.

3. Updates

i. Legislation

TD informed the Group that the Minister had approved the General Scheme for the Merger Bill and it would go on the agenda for the last Cabinet meeting before the summer recess on 23 July. Once approved, it will go to the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel for drafting. He confirmed that the EPA and RPII would have the opportunity to comment on the draft as it progressed.

4. Review of remaining papers

4.1 Proposal for establishing a Radiological Protection (RP) Advisory Committee

The MWG discussed the options presented in the paper and decided to approve the recommendation by the Governance Subcommittee of the PG that option 2 - to establish the RP Advisory Committee under a Statutory Instrument - was the most appropriate.

4.2 Review of Communications and Other Corporate Arrangements in RPII and EPA

The amended paper was discussed and some minor amendments were suggested and agreed.

4.3 Final Draft Action Plan and Gantt Chart

It was agreed in principle to sign off on the Action Plan as phase 1 of the merger process and include a reference to it not being an Implementation Plan and that the resourcing of the implementation needed to be addressed.

The MWG then proceeded to review the final draft and some minor amendments were discussed and agreed.

The Chair noted all members of the group agreed with the revised text, and pronounced the Action Plan as concluded, for submission to the Minister on the following Monday.

5. Implementation Phase

The Chair informed the Group that he had consulted with John McCarthy, Assistant Secretary DECLG, about the continuation of the MWG. Mr. McCarthy indicated that as the process was now entering the implementation stage he would be happy to take over chairmanship of the MWG and to convene it as appropriate.

It was agreed to issue the following direction to the PG:

- Subject to the approval of the Action Plan by the Minister, the PG is requested to convene from 1 September to develop an Implementation Plan with a view to presenting it at the next meeting of the MWG.

6. AOB

It was agreed that the full set of final detailed papers, clearly marked as the post-consultation amended versions, would be circulated to all PG/MWG members.

The Chair thanked the members of the MWG for their work on this process.