

Guidance on the process of preparing and implementing a bog rehabilitation plan



Environmental Protection Agency

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for protecting and improving the environment as a valuable asset for the people of Ireland. We are committed to protecting people and the environment from the harmful effects of radiation and pollution.

The work of the EPA can be divided into three main areas:

- **Regulation:** We implement effective regulation and environmental compliance systems to deliver good environmental outcomes and target those who don't comply.
- **Knowledge:** We provide high quality, targeted and timely environmental data, information and assessment to inform decision making at all levels.
- **Advocacy:** We work with others to advocate for a clean, productive and well protected environment and for sustainable environmental behaviour.

Our Responsibilities

LICENSING

We regulate the following activities so that they do not endanger human health or harm the environment:

- waste facilities (e.g. landfills, incinerators, waste transfer stations);
- large scale industrial activities (e.g. pharmaceutical, cement manufacturing, power plants);
- intensive agriculture (e.g. pigs, poultry);
- the contained use and controlled release of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs);
- sources of ionising radiation (e.g. x-ray and radiotherapy equipment, industrial sources);
- large petrol storage facilities;
- waste water discharges;
- dumping at sea activities.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

- Conducting an annual programme of audits and inspections of EPA licensed facilities.
- Overseeing local authorities' environmental protection responsibilities.
- Supervising the supply of drinking water by public water suppliers.
- Working with local authorities and other agencies to tackle environmental crime by coordinating a national enforcement network, targeting offenders and overseeing remediation.
- Enforcing Regulations such as Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) and substances that deplete the ozone layer.
- Prosecuting those who flout environmental law and damage the environment.

WATER MANAGEMENT

- Monitoring and reporting on the quality of rivers, lakes, transitional and coastal waters of Ireland and groundwaters; measuring water levels and river flows.
- National coordination and oversight of the Water Framework Directive.
- Monitoring and reporting on Bathing Water Quality.

MONITORING, ANALYSING AND REPORTING ON THE ENVIRONMENT

- Monitoring air quality and implementing the EU Clean Air for Europe (CAFÉ) Directive.
- Independent reporting to inform decision making by national and local government (e.g. periodic reporting on the State of Ireland's Environment and Indicator Reports).

REGULATING IRELAND'S GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

- Preparing Ireland's greenhouse gas inventories and projections.
- Implementing the Emissions Trading Directive, for over 100 of the largest producers of carbon dioxide in Ireland.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Funding environmental research to identify pressures, inform policy and provide solutions in the areas of climate, water and sustainability.

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

- Assessing the impact of proposed plans and programmes on the Irish environment (e.g. major development plans).

RADIOLOGICAL PROTECTION

- Monitoring radiation levels, assessing exposure of people in Ireland to ionising radiation.
- Assisting in developing national plans for emergencies arising from nuclear accidents.
- Monitoring developments abroad relating to nuclear installations and radiological safety.
- Providing, or overseeing the provision of, specialist radiation protection services.

GUIDANCE, ACCESSIBLE INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

- Providing advice and guidance to industry and the public on environmental and radiological protection topics.
- Providing timely and easily accessible environmental information to encourage public participation in environmental decision-making (e.g. My Local Environment, Radon Maps).
- Advising Government on matters relating to radiological safety and emergency response.
- Developing a National Hazardous Waste Management Plan to prevent and manage hazardous waste.

AWARENESS RAISING AND BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE

- Generating greater environmental awareness and influencing positive behavioural change by supporting businesses, communities and householders to become more resource efficient.
- Promoting radon testing in homes and workplaces and encouraging remediation where necessary.

MANAGEMENT AND STRUCTURE OF THE EPA

The EPA is managed by a full time Board, consisting of a Director General and five Directors. The work is carried out across five Offices:

- Office of Environmental Sustainability
- Office of Environmental Enforcement
- Office of Evidence and Assessment
- Office of Radiation Protection and Environmental Monitoring
- Office of Communications and Corporate Services

The EPA is assisted by an Advisory Committee of twelve members who meet regularly to discuss issues of concern and provide advice to the Board.



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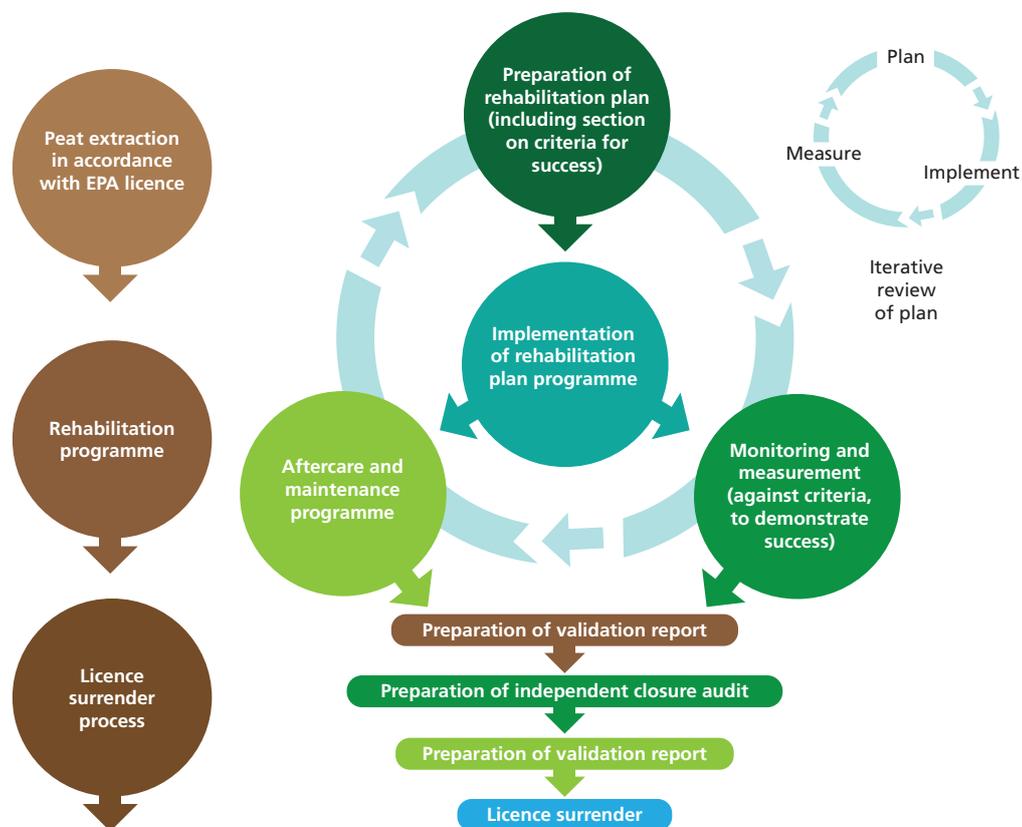
Introduction

This document has been prepared by the Office of Environmental Enforcement. The context of the document is the regulation by IPC licence of peat extraction activities. It has no relevance outside of that context.

This document describes a process to be followed by licensees when preparing and implementing a bog rehabilitation plan. It is non-binding but if followed will ensure consistency in the preparation of bog rehabilitation plans by licensees. It is also intended as a way to improve visibility and transparency of the process for third parties and creating a formal structure for all-important engagement and consultation to take place. The guidance may assist third parties when consulted by a licensee and will be used by the EPA when assessing draft rehabilitation plans and revisions.

The steps (1 to 8) in the guidance are indicative and self-explanatory. They should not be construed as an interpretation of the legislation or an EPA licence. Cross-reference to licence conditions is provided solely for convenience. It remains a licensee's responsibility to ensure compliance with licence conditions.

Some of the steps can be done in parallel with others, or will naturally overlap, particularly at the early stages. As the diagram below shows, there is likely to be some iteration as the plan is revised and implemented.



This document will be revised as necessary. Feedback from licensees and third parties is welcome. The guidance may be revised on foot of new legislation or future licence conditions. It may also be revised based on experience of its implementation and developing expertise in the rehabilitation and regulation of bogs.

What is permanent rehabilitation in the context of an EPA licence and the rehabilitation plan?

Licensees and third parties should understand the EPA's role in bog rehabilitation.

The EPA authorises peat extraction activities in accordance with the provisions of the EPA Act 1992, as amended.

When peat extraction ceases at a bog licensed by the EPA, a licensee is entitled to seek the surrender of the peat extraction licence. The surrender of a licence is governed by section 95 of the EPA Act. The text of this section is provided at the end of this document.

Peat extraction licences require the permanent rehabilitation of the cutaway boglands within the licensed area. This must be done before the surrender of a licence can be accepted by the EPA. The objective of a rehabilitation plan, for the purposes of an EPA licence, is to ensure there is no risk to the environment arising from the peat extraction activity and its legacy. This is limited to the aspects regulated by the EPA in peat extraction licences. What this means in practice is that the bog should not be the source of a polluting emission to water or an emission to air. There should be no outstanding environmental liability arising from the peat extraction activity. Opportunities to reduce carbon dioxide emissions will be highly site-specific but are not directly regulated by a peat extraction licence. When the rehabilitation phase is complete and there are no ongoing environmental liabilities to be regulated by the EPA, the EPA will be in a position to accept the surrender of the licence.

No two bogs are the same. Detailed scientific and business planning will be required before decisions are made by a licensee on how to rehabilitate any one bog. This rehabilitation planning process will need to consider the future uses or situations foreseen for the bog in light of local area needs, habitats policies, climate action policies and land-use policies, insofar as these aspects impinge on a licensee's decision-making on rehabilitation.

Rehabilitation is the first phase of stabilisation after peat extraction is complete.

Rehabilitation must however be "permanent" and should be able to stand alone as a process. If no further end-use is envisaged, rehabilitation may be the only phase of work. Alternatively, rehabilitation (and the plan for it) might be a stepping stone to further work at a bog leading to, for example, restoration, forestry or energy/industrial development. Given the scale of cutaway bog and its importance in the Irish landscape and as a source of opportunity to improve biodiversity, habitat, ecology, water quality and climate impact, it is important that a licensee makes its decisions in this regard in a transparent manner.

1. Characterise the bog

The licensee should characterise the bog prior to embarking on detailed planning and implementation.

Reasons for characterising the bog include the need to understand:

- its status and situation,
- how it works hydrologically and hydrogeologically,
- negative and positive environmental aspects,
- whether the bog is a significant pressure under the Water Framework Directive,
- what is built or installed at the site,
- its socio-economic setting, and
- how the land is classified in terms of statutory protections, e.g. as European sites, world heritage sites, RAMSAR sites, National Heritage Areas, national monuments, archaeological heritage, etc.

A map should be prepared showing the character of the bog “as is”, illustrating, for example:

- its current status and condition,
- the location of buildings, structures, silt ponds, infrastructure, etc.,
- the location of emissions points and environmental monitoring points,
- any Special Areas of Conservation or other relevant statutory designations including those as mentioned above,
- other items of site-specific or local interest.

A set of maps and drawings could be accompanied by aerial imagery – from satellite or drones – to set the baseline for observations of vegetation and other changes as rehabilitation proceeds.

Mapping work should be done to modern standards and deliver on prevailing expectations on mapping and presentation of information. There may be available benchmarks in the active peatland research community and the EPA’s informatics and mapping sections.

Text to accompany the characterisation should include, as a minimum:

- Site description, outlining the character and characterisation of the bog and its operational history.
- Hydrology and hydrogeology – a description of how drainage is arranged.
- Emissions to water – their characterisation and impact on surface waters.
- Emissions to air – e.g. dust emissions – their characterisation and impact.
- Carbon dioxide emissions – current profile of the bog as a source or sink, where this is relevant in rehabilitation planning.
- Invasive species – identify the location and incidence of invasive plant and animal species.

2. Consult

In accordance with licence conditions, the licensee must consult with interested parties.

EPA licences do not prescribe the nature or extent of consultation. The following is the relevant text for which compliance by a licensee is mandatory.

“The rehabilitation plan shall include as a minimum ... a scope statement for the plan, to include outcome of consultations with relevant agencies, authorities and affected parties (to be identified by the licensee).”

It is the EPA's view that consultation should be meaningful, early, ongoing and transparent. Such consultation is an opportunity for a licensee to move “beyond compliance” with licence conditions.

Consultation need not be limited to those parties prescribed by the licence (‘relevant agencies, authorities and affected parties’) but should include all with an interest in how the bog will be rehabilitated. This includes national NGOs and statutory bodies who can examine proposals from specific viewpoints. Consultees should include neighbours (if likely to be affected) as well as local NGOs.

The licensee should circulate information and documents to consulted parties. This should be done on-line and, for those who need it or request it, in hardcopy.

The information and documents should describe how the bog has been characterised, setting out the relevant policy and corporate frameworks and presenting options for rehabilitation of the bog in question.

The licensee should present site specific information to enable the making of site-specific submissions (as opposed to generalised ones) from third parties. Examples from previously rehabilitated bogs might be useful to show what's possible or proposed.

Workshops and meetings may be useful in certain situations and the licensee should take reasonable efforts to give all interested parties a say.

3. Draft a fully detailed and costed plan for permanent rehabilitation of the cutaway boglands

(Condition 10.2.1)

A bog rehabilitation plan should be a structured document that progresses from information gathering to goal setting, selection of indicators and work programme.

The following are indicative section headings for a bog rehabilitation plan. Licensees should add to these titles as deemed necessary.

3.1. Describe the character of the bog

The rehabilitation plan should contain detailed information on the characterisation of the bog, as completed in accordance with step 1 above.

In addition, the rehabilitation plan should contain an overview of the bog group as a whole, as regulated under the relevant licence. For example, a list of the bogs in the licensed group and a statement on their status, e.g. according to the headings in the sample table below. The objective is to assist the reader to understand the context of the individual bog within the licensed group as a whole. The following is a sample format for presentation of information.

Name of bog	Stage of exploitation	Cessation of extraction	Status of rehab plan	Other ...	Other ...

3.2. Report on consultation

(Condition 10.3.1)

The rehabilitation plan should describe the expectations/desires of third parties and how the licensee will respond to these.

The draft of a rehabilitation plan should set out what was said in submissions (verbal or written) by interested parties and what their expectations and desires are regarding bog rehabilitation. When interested parties' ambitions stretch beyond rehabilitation (e.g. restoration, amenity, energy/industrial use) this should be described.

The draft of the rehabilitation plan should contain the licensee's response to the points raised in submissions. The licensee's response to submissions should be thorough, taking time in particular to explain why any ideas are not being or cannot be accepted.

3.3. Determine the policy and legislation that will define the plan

The rehabilitation plan should describe how the licensee's options or choices are informed, defined or directed by policy and legislation.

Is there anything the licensee may not do, that is restricted by legislation and/or policy?

The rehabilitation of cutaway bogs may be governed by instruments that are broader in scope than the EPA licence. These instruments include, for example:

- Government policies, plans and schemes (e.g. grants) on peatlands management, restoration, biodiversity and climate action,
- habitats directives and regulations,
- peat extraction regulations and statutory controls,
- the Water Framework Directive, and
- planning permission, EIA and appropriate assessment, e.g. regarding development at the bog.

A rehabilitation plan should identify what policies, laws and instruments will be taken into consideration in the rehabilitation plan and how they influenced the drafting of the plan.

3.4. Decide the rehabilitation goals or outcomes

Licensees should describe in the rehabilitation plan what they want to achieve by implementing the rehabilitation plan for the bog in question.

The rehabilitation plan should focus its attention on the goals or outcomes relevant under the licence and that will lead to and allow for licence surrender. A licensee can set goals or outcomes for the bog that extend beyond the remit of the EPA licence, e.g. for developments or end-uses or climate action initiatives that would not ordinarily be regulated by the EPA, and these should be described in the plan if they are relevant for decision-making on rehabilitation.

The following may be relevant questions and are presented for guidance on how to set goals or describe outcomes.

- Is the bog a significant pressure on water quality under the Water Framework Directive?
- Is it intended that rehabilitation of the cutaway bog will contribute to national targets, e.g. on restoration of bog remnants or habitats and species conservation?
- What water management arrangements will be in place and how will water discharges be managed/regulated?
- Is the bog rehabilitation (under the licence) part of a longer process leading to end-uses or restoration that will be implemented post-rehabilitation or post-licence surrender?
- Is the bog rehabilitation part of a programme for climate action?
- Will the licensee set a goal or outcome in response to a stakeholder's or neighbour's needs or wants?

The goals or outcomes should be as (site-)specific as possible and need not be large in number.

3.5. Prepare a scope statement

(Condition 10.3.1)

The licensee should establish the scope of the rehabilitation plan - geographical, temporal, environmental, hydrological, hydrogeological, corporate, policy, legislative, licence¹.

Condition 10.3.1 of peat extraction licences requires a scope statement to be prepared. The scope of the plan should address the following points. These points are examples and are not exhaustive.

- Boundaries and limitations to scope identified by:
 - the EPA licence,
 - consultees,
 - corporate decisions,
 - policy, and
 - legislation.
- Geographic scope – i.e. what land is covered by the rehabilitation plan?
- Temporal scope – e.g. the timeline from commencement of rehabilitation and moving forward to surrender of licence.
- Environmental, hydrological, hydrogeological – e.g.
 - the scope of works to influence emissions to water and air (including suspended solids, ammonia and dust);
 - what local environmental conditions need to be addressed;
 - how will invasive species be eradicated?
- What the plan does not cover – e.g. developments planned for the period after licence surrender – if these matters influenced the decisions made in the rehabilitation plan.
- Developments that are scheduled to take place before licence surrender but:
 - require authorisation from other competent authorities (e.g. planning permission),
 - do not of themselves require EPA authorisation, and
 - will need to be incorporated into and addressed as part of the rehabilitation plan.
- Other matters at the licensee's discretion.

¹ Note, not all of these list items will be relevant or needed in each instance.

3.6. Choose criteria to define successful rehabilitation

(Condition 10.3.2)

To mark the achievement of goals or outcomes, the licensee should decide on what criteria will be used to indicate successful rehabilitation.

Condition 10.3.2 of peat extraction licences state that a rehabilitation plan should include “criteria which define the successful rehabilitation of the activity or part thereof, which ensures minimum impact to the environment”. In order to set criteria for any bog unit, a licensee will have to define what successful rehabilitation looks like and what they want to achieve through rehabilitating the bog. These are the goals/outcomes described in section 3.4 above. Only by knowing the goals and outcomes can criteria for success be set.

When all criteria are met, the bog may be deemed to have been permanently rehabilitated for the purposes of the EPA licence. This will allow a licensee to move towards licence surrender. Criteria should therefore be carefully chosen to ensure they are measurable and designed to lead to licence surrender.

Criteria may be quantitative or qualitative.

When the criteria are met and the plan is validated (see section 7 below), the EPA can consider an application for licence surrender. The surrender process is outlined in section 8 below.

3.7. Design a programme to achieve the criteria

(Condition 10.3.3)

The licensee should describe the steps and actions to be taken to achieve rehabilitation of the bog.

The rehabilitation plan should provide a high-level overview of the actions that will be taken to rehabilitate the bog. Actions (and these are examples) might include damming existing drains, decommissioning silt ponds and emission points, eradicating invasive species, planting and fertilising and clearing equipment. The actions required for condition 10.1.1 of peat extraction licences should also be identified here.

Licensees should, when choosing actions, take into consideration the risk of environmental pollution from rehabilitation-related activities. Any potential risk of environmental pollution should be identified and the plan should incorporate any preventative and mitigation measures required during rehabilitation.

The rehabilitation plan should include an overall indicative timeframe for each stage of the rehabilitation programme. The timetable or programme should highlight key linkages and challenges for success. Licensees should avoid over-exactness in timetables.

3.8. Devise a test programme to demonstrate the successful implementation of the plan

(Condition 10.3.4)

Where any element of the rehabilitation plan implementation is novel or experimental, a test programme may be required.

A test programme may not be required for any element of an individual rehabilitation plan. However, where a test programme is warranted, the rehabilitation plan should set out the objectives of the test, how it will be conducted, the anticipated outcome and how this will be measured.

3.9. Design a programme for aftercare and maintenance

(Condition 10.3.5)

After the rehabilitation plan has been implemented, there will be a requirement for aftercare and maintenance where the licensee will demonstrate through environmental monitoring or other techniques the successful implementation of the rehabilitation plan. The length of this time period and what will be done during it will be site specific.

The following are examples of matters to be considered for action during aftercare and maintenance:

- monitoring water levels and rewetting progress,
- sampling and analysis of discharges to surface water,
- measurement of ecological uptake and development of habitats,
- monitoring for emergence of invasive species,
- monitoring of environmental impact of public amenities,
- monitoring of effects on neighbours' land.

3.10. Look ahead to completion, validation and licence surrender

The rehabilitation plan should look ahead to and describe how the licensee envisages proceeding to validation/completion (see section 7 below) and licence surrender (section 8).

Whilst likely to be low on detail, this section of a rehabilitation plan should inform third parties how the licensee intends to proceed in the period following aftercare and maintenance and moving towards validation, completion and licence surrender.

4. Send the plan to the EPA

(Condition 10.2.1)

Having consulted on the draft or proposed rehabilitation plan, the licensee should finalise the plan and submit it as a licensee return (request for approval) on EDEN.

In accordance with condition 10.2.1 of peat extraction licences, “the licensee shall prepare, to the satisfaction of the Agency, a fully detailed and costed plan for the permanent rehabilitation of the cutaway boglands within the licensed area. This plan shall be submitted to the Agency for agreement....”

5. Implement the plan

With the EPA’s approval, the rehabilitation plan should be implemented.

Licensees should be alert to any issues that may disrupt the successful implementation of a rehabilitation plan. Any such issues should be dealt with promptly.

6. Review the plan

(Condition 10.2.2)

Every two years, or sooner at the licensee’s discretion, a rehabilitation plan shall be reviewed and revisions made.

Condition 10.2.2 of peat extraction licences oblige licensees to review a rehabilitation plan every two years. This frequency can be increased at a licensee’s discretion if the plan needs to be revised earlier.

A review should be comprehensive, particularly if the rehabilitation project has commenced. It should track the programmed actions and measure progress towards the criteria for successful rehabilitation. It should update the maps, drawings and aerial images of the bog showing how its character has or is changing. The review should describe what’s gone well and where difficulties have arisen. It should describe and consider the outcome of any test programme. As part of ongoing consultation, the review should be flagged in advance to interested parties and engagement invited. The review report should describe any such engagement and how matters were dealt with. Any amendment to the plan should be described, with reasons for the revisions.

Amendments to the rehabilitation plan should be notified to the EPA as a licensee return (request for approval) on EDEN and agreement sought for their implementation.

7. Prepare a final validation report, including a certificate of completion

(Condition 10.4)

When a rehabilitation plan is complete, a final validation report shall be prepared. This will include a *certificate of completion* for the rehabilitation plan.

Condition 10.4 of peat extraction licences requires that a final validation report is submitted within 6 months of execution of the rehabilitation plan.

The following is a sample checklist for use by licensees to signify successful implementation of the rehabilitation plan as part of a final validation report and *certificate of completion*.

Checklist:

- List the criteria chosen to define the successful rehabilitation of the bog. State whether the criteria have been met.
- List the actions as set out in the programme to achieve the criteria. State whether the actions have been completed and the outcome of works.
- Report on the environmental monitoring carried out during the aftercare and maintenance period (and earlier, if relevant).
- Provide an assessment that demonstrates there is no environmental pollution being caused.
- Provide final maps, drawings and aerial images (if available) to show the character of the bog upon completion of rehabilitation.
- Other items at the licensee's discretion, general or site-specific.

The *certificate of completion* should include a statement that there is no continuing risk to the environment following implementation and execution of the rehabilitation plan.

8. Surrender the licence

The surrender of an EPA licence is governed by section 95 of the EPA Act 1992 as amended.

The text of section 95 is provided below. Licensees should also consult the following guidance document for information on the licence surrender process:

- **Guidance to Licensees on Surrender, Cessation and Closure of Licensed Sites**, EPA, 2012
https://www.epa.ie/pubs/advice/licensee/Guidance%20on%20Cessation_.pdf

Section 95 of the EPA Act 1992 as amended

95. Surrender of licence

- (1) A licence or a revised licence granted under this Part may be surrendered by the licensee, but only if the Agency accepts the surrender.
- (2) A licensee who desires to surrender his licence or revised licence shall make an application for that purpose to the Agency, in such form, giving such information and accompanied by such evidence as may be prescribed and accompanied by such fee as may be prescribed under section 99A.

- (3) Upon receiving an application for the surrender of a licence or revised licence, the Agency-
 - (a) shall inspect the installation at which the activity to which the licence or revised licence relates is carried on ('the relevant installation'), and
 - (b) may require the applicant to furnish to it such further information or evidence as it may specify.
- (4) For the purpose of subsection (3), the Agency may, by notice in writing served on the person, require a person who has made an application to it under subsection (2) to carry out, or arrange to have carried out, in such manner as may be specified in the notice, such monitoring, sampling and investigations, in addition to those which may be required under a condition attached to the licence or revised licence concerned, as the Agency considers necessary, and so specifies, and any requirement so made shall be regarded as a condition attaching to that licence or revised licence.
- (5) Where the Agency proposes to accept the surrender of a licence or a revised licence, it shall consult with such persons and in accordance with such procedures as may be prescribed.
- (6) Having regard to such information or evidence as is furnished to it under paragraph (b) of subsection (3) and to the results of an inspection under paragraph (a) of that subsection and of any monitoring, sampling and investigation required to be carried out under subsection (4), the Agency shall assess the condition of the relevant installation, so far as that condition is the result of the use of the installation for an activity, (whether the activity, the subject of the licence concerned or, if the installation, in contravention of the licence, was used for the carrying on of any other activity within the meaning of this Act, that activity) and the likely effect on the environment or any environmental medium of any emissions from the relevant installation that may occur.
- (7) If the Agency is satisfied that the condition of the relevant installation is not causing or likely to cause environmental pollution and the site of the activity is in a satisfactory state, it shall accept the surrender of the licence or revised licence, but otherwise shall refuse to accept the surrender of the licence or revised licence.
- (8) A decision of the Agency under subsection (7) shall be conveyed to-
 - (a) the applicant concerned,
 - (b) the local authority in whose functional area the activity, the subject matter of the licence or revised licence, has been carried on, and
 - (c) any person concerned that it has consulted under subsection (5), by notice in writing, as soon as may be after the decision is made and where the decision is a decision to accept the surrender of a licence or revised licence, that licence or revised licence shall cease to have effect upon the service of the said notice.
- (9) The making of an application for the surrender of a licence or revised licence under this section, or the cesser of the activity to which a licence relates, shall in no way affect or diminish such conditions, requirements or obligations applying to or falling on the licensee as are specified in or arise under the licence or revised licence.

An Ghníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil

Tá an Ghníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil (GCC) freagrach as an gcomhshaoil a chaomhnú agus a fheabhsú mar shócmhainn luachmhar do mhuintir na hÉireann. Táimid tiomanta do dhaoine agus don chomhshaoil a chosaint ar thionchar díobhálach na radaíochta agus an truailithe.

Is féidir obair na Gníomhaireachta a roinnt ina trí phríomhréimse:

- Rialú:** Déanaimid córais éifeachtacha rialaithe agus comhlíonta comhshaoil a chur i bhfeidhm chun torthaí maíthe comhshaoil a sholáthar agus chun díriú orthu siúd nach gcloíonn leis na córais sin.
- Eolas:** Soláthraimid sonraí, faisnéis agus measúnú comhshaoil atá ar ardchaighdeán, spriocdhírthe agus tráthúil chun bonn eolais a chur faoin gcinnteoireacht ar gach leibhéal.
- Tacaíocht:** Bímid ag saothrú i gcomhar le grúpaí eile chun tacú le comhshaoil atá glan, táirgiúil agus cosanta go maíthe, agus le hiompar a chuirfidh le comhshaoil inbhuanaithe.

Ár bhFreagrachtaí CEADÚNÚ

Déanaimid na gníomhaíochtaí seo a leanas a rialú ionas nach ndéanann siad dochar do shláinte an phobail ná don chomhshaoil:

- saoráidí dramhaíola (m.sh. láithreáin líonta talún, loisceoirí, stáisiúin aistrithe dramhaíola);
- gníomhaíochtaí tionsclaíocha ar scála mór (m.sh. déantúsaíocht cógaisíochta, déantúsaíocht stroighne, stáisiúin chumhachta);
- an diantalmhaíocht (m.sh. muca, éanlaith);
- úsáid ghlanscartha agus scaoileadh rialaithe Orgánach Géinmhodhnaithe (OGanna);
- foinsí radaíochta ianúcháin (m.sh. trealamh x-gha agus radaiteiripe, foinsí tionsclaíocha);
- áiseanna móra stórála peitрил;
- sceitheadh fuíolluisce;
- gníomhaíochtaí dumpála ar farraige.

FORFHEIDHMIÚ NÁISIÚNTA I LEITH CÚRSAÍ COMHSHAOIL

- Clár náisiúnta iniúchtaí agus cigireachtaí a dhéanamh gach bliain ar shaoráidí a bhfuil ceadúnas ón nGníomhaireacht acu.
- Maoirseacht a dhéanamh ar fhreagrachtaí cosanta comhshaoil na n-údarás áitiúil.
- Caighdeán an uisce óil, arna sholáthar ag soláthraithe uisce phoiblí, a mhaoirsiú.
- Obair le húdarás áitiúla agus gníomhaireachtaí eile chun dul i ngleic le coireacht chomhshaoil trí chomhordú a dhéanamh ar líonra forfheidhmiúcháin náisiúnta, díriú ar chiontóirí, agus maoirsiú a dhéanamh ar fheabhsúcháin.
- Cur i bhfeidhm rialachán ar nós na Rialachán um Dhramhthrealamh Leictreach agus Leictreonach (WEEE), um Shrian ar Shubstaintí Guaiseacha agus na Rialachán um rialú ar shubstaintí a ídionn an ciseal ózóin.
- An dlí a chur orthu siúd a bhriseann dlí an chomhshaoil agus a dhéanann dochar don chomhshaoil.

BAINISTÍOCHT UISCE

- Monatóireacht agus tuairiscí a dhéanamh ar cháilíocht aibhneacha, lochanna, uisce idirchreasa agus cósta na hÉireann, agus screamhuiscí; leibhéal uisce agus sruthanna aibhneacha a thomhas.
- Comhordú náisiúnta agus maoirsiú a dhéanamh ar an gCreat-Treoir Uisce.
- Monatóireacht agus tuairiscí a dhéanamh ar Cháilíocht an Uisce Snámha.

MONATÓIREACHT, ANAILÍS AGUS TUAIRISCÍ AR AN GCOMHSHAOIL

- Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar cháilíocht an aeir agus Treoir an AE maidir le hAer Glan don Eoraip (CAFÉ) a chur chun feidhme.
- Tuairiscí neamhspleách le cabhrú le cinnteoireacht an rialtais náisiúnta agus áitiúil (m.sh. tuairiscí tréimhsiúil ar Staid Chomhshaoil na hÉireann agus Tuarascálacha ar Tháscairí).
- Rialú Astaíochtaí na nGás Ceaptha Teasa in Éirinn
- Fardail agus réamh-mheastacháin na hÉireann maidir le gás ceaptha teasa a ullmhú.
- An Treoir maidir le Trádáil Astaíochtaí a chur chun feidhme i gcomhair breis agus 100 de na táirgeoirí dé-ocsaíde carbóin is mó in Éirinn.

TAIGHDE AGUS FORBAIRT COMHSHAOIL

- Taighde comhshaoil a chistiú chun brúnna a shainaithint, bonn eolais a chur faoi bheartais, agus réitigh a sholáthar i réimsí na haeráide, an uisce agus na hinbhuanaitheachta.

MEASÚNÚ STRAITÉISEACH COMHSHAOIL

- Measúnacht a dhéanamh ar thionchar pleannanna agus clár beartaithe ar an gcomhshaoil in Éirinn (m.sh. mórfheananna forbartha).

COSAINN RAIDEOLAÍOCH

- Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar leibhéal radaíochta, agus measúnacht a dhéanamh ar a oiread is atá muintir na hÉireann gan chosaint ar an radaíocht ianúcháin.
- Cabhrú le pleannanna náisiúnta a fhorbairt le haghaidh éigeandálaí ag eascairt as tairmí núicléacha.
- Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar fhorbairtí thar lear a bhaineann le saoráidí núicléacha agus leis an tsábháilteacht raideolaíochta.
- Sainseirbhísí cosanta ar an radaíocht a sholáthar, nó maoirsiú a dhéanamh ar sholáthar na seirbhísí sin.

TREOIR, FAISNÉIS INROCHTANA AGUS OIDEACHAS

- Comhairle agus treoir a chur ar fáil d'earnáil na tionsclaíochta agus don phobal maidir le hábhair a bhaineann le caomhnú an chomhshaoil agus leis an gcosaint raideolaíoch.
- Faisnéis thráthúil ar an gcomhshaoil ar a bhfuil fáil éasca a chur ar fáil chun rannpháirtíocht an phobail a spreagadh sa chinnteoireacht i ndáil leis an gcomhshaoil (m.sh. Timpeall an Tí, Mapaí Radóin).
- Comhairle a chur ar fáil don Rialtas maidir le hábhair a bhaineann leis an tsábháilteacht raideolaíoch agus le cúrsaí práinnfhreagartha.
- Plean Náisiúnta Bainistíochta Dramhaíola Guaisí a fhorbairt chun dramhaíl ghuaiseach a chosc agus a bhainistiú.

MÚSCAILT FEASACHTA AGUS ATHRÚ IOMPRAÍOCHTA

- Feasacht chomhshaoil níos fearr a ghiniúint agus dul i bhfeidhm ar athrú iompraíochta dearfach trí thacú le gnóthais, le pobail agus le teaghlaigh a bheith níos éifeachtúla ar acmhainní.
- Tástáil le haghaidh radóin a chur chun cinn i dtithe agus in ionaid oibre, agus gníomhartha leasúcháin a spreagadh nuair is gá.

BAINISTÍOCHT AGUS STRUCHTÚR AN GCC

Tá an ghníomhaíocht á bainistiú ag Bord Iáinimseartha, ar a bhfuil Ard-Stiúrthóir agus cúigear Stiúrthóirí. Déantar an obair ar fud cúig cinn d'Oifigi:

- An Oifig um Inbhuanaitheacht Comhshaoil
- An Oifig Forfheidhmithe i leith cúrsaí Comhshaoil
- An Oifig um Fhianaise agus Measúnú
- An Oifig um Chosaint Radaíochta agus Monatóireacht Comhshaoil
- An Oifig Cumarsáide agus Seirbhísí Corparáideacha

Tá Coiste Comhairleach ag an nGníomhaireacht le cabhrú léi. Tá dáréag comhaltaí air agus tagann siad le chéile go rialta le plé a dhéanamh ar ábhair inné agus le comhairle a chur ar an mBord.



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

An Ghníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil
PO Box 3000, Johnstown Castle, Co. Wexford, Ireland

Telephone: +353 53 916 0600 Fax: +353 53 916 0699
Email: info@epa.ie Website: www.epa.ie

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