



Aspects of the Environmental Protection Agency's Licensing Procedures: Objections and Oral Hearings

This document does not purport to be and should not be considered a legal interpretation of the provisions and requirements of the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended, the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992 as amended and supporting regulations.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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Environmental Protection Agency

The 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:** Implementing regulation and environmental compliance systems to deliver good environmental outcomes and target those who don't comply.
- **Knowledge:** Providing high-quality, targeted and timely environmental data, information and assessment to inform decision making.
- **Advocacy:** Working with others to advocate for a clean, productive and well-protected environment and for sustainable environmental practices.

Our responsibilities include:

LICENSING

- Large-scale industrial waste and petrol storage activities;
- Urban wastewater discharges;
- The contained use and controlled release of genetically modified organisms;
- Sources of ionising radiation;
- Greenhouse gas emissions from industry and aviation through the EU Emissions Trading Scheme.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

- Audit and inspection of EPA-licensed facilities;
- Drive the implementation of best practice in regulated activities and facilities;
- Oversee local authority responsibilities for environmental protection;
- Regulate the quality of public drinking water and enforce urban wastewater discharge authorisations;
- Assess and report on public and private drinking water quality;
- Coordinate a network of public service organisations to support action against environmental crime;
- Prosecute those who flout environmental law and damage the environment.

WASTE MANAGEMENT AND CHEMICALS IN THE ENVIRONMENT

- Implement and enforce waste regulations including national enforcement issues;
- Prepare and publish national waste statistics and the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan;
- Develop and implement the National Waste Prevention Programme;
- Implement and report on legislation on the control of chemicals in the environment.

WATER MANAGEMENT

- Engage with national and regional governance and operational structures to implement the Water Framework Directive;
- Monitor, assess and report on the quality of rivers, lakes, transitional and coastal waters, bathing waters and groundwaters, and measurement of water levels and river flows.

CLIMATE SCIENCE AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- Publish Ireland's greenhouse gas emission inventories and projections;
- Provide the Secretariat to the Climate Change Advisory Council and support to the National Dialogue on Climate Action;
- Support National, EU and UN climate science and policy development activities.

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING & ASSESSMENT

- Design and implement national environmental monitoring systems: technology, data management, analysis and forecasting;
- Produce the State of Ireland's Environment and Indicator Reports;
- Monitor air quality and implement the EU Clean Air for Europe Directive, the Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution and the National Emissions Ceiling Directive;
- Oversee the implementation of the Environmental Noise Directive;
- Assess the impact of proposed plans and programmes on the Irish environment.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Coordinate and fund national environmental research activity to identify pressures, inform policy and provide solutions;
- Collaborate with national and EU environmental research activity.

RADIOLOGICAL PROTECTION

- Monitoring radiation levels and assess public exposure to ionising radiation and electromagnetic fields;
- Assist in developing national plans for emergencies arising from nuclear accidents;
- Monitor developments abroad relating to nuclear installations and radiological safety;
- Provide, or oversee the provision of, specialist radiation protection services.

GUIDANCE, AWARENESS RAISING, AND ACCESSIBLE INFORMATION

- Provide independent evidence-based reporting, advice and guidance to government, industry and the public on environmental and radiological protection topics;
- Promote the link between health and wellbeing, the economy and a clean environment;
- Promote environmental awareness including supporting behaviours for resource efficiency and climate transition;
- Promote radon testing in homes and workplaces and encourage remediation where necessary.

PARTNERSHIP AND NETWORKING

- Work with international and national agencies, regional and local authorities, non-governmental organisations, representative bodies and government departments to deliver environmental and radiological protection, research coordination and science-based decision making.

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 advisory committees who meet regularly to discuss issues of concern and provide advice to the Board.

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Aspects of the Environmental Protection Agency's Licensing Procedures: Objections and Oral Hearings

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Environmental Protection Agency (“Agency”) has responsibility for the licensing of significant waste disposal and recovery activities as provided for in the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended and large-scale industrial and other processes as provided for in Part IV of the EPA Act 1992 as amended.
- 1.2 The Agency is required to examine and determine licence applications, having regard to the provisions of the Waste Management and EPA Acts and any supporting regulations.
- 1.3 EPA licences are single integrated licences, which deal with emissions to all environmental media, and the environmental management of the facility/installation. All related operations carried on by the applicant in, on, or adjacent to the facility/installation are taken into consideration.
- 1.4 The procedures for dealing with licence applications are set out in regulations made by the Minister for the relevant Department. These regulations outline the procedures that the EPA, the applicant and any other person must follow in relation to the licensing process. The key legislation governing EPA licensing is set out in Appendix 1 of this publication.
- 1.5 Applications are made to the EPA on a somewhat similar basis as those submitted to the planning authority for planning permission. There are two stages in the licence application process. The first stage is from receipt of the application by the EPA to issue of a proposed decision/determination (PD) on the application. The second stage of the process, the objection stage, begins on the date of issue of the PD and ends with a final decision on the application. Any person making an objection may request an Oral Hearing of the objection.
- 1.6 Licence applications and associated documentation are available for viewing on the EPA’s website at www.epa.ie. If a particular application is not available on the website, then the Agency may be contacted by emailing licensing@epa.ie.
- 1.7 The EPA is required to determine an application as promptly as possible after receiving a complete application and any necessary supporting documentation. In the case of Industrial Emissions (IE) and Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) applications, the Agency is required to issue a PD within eight weeks of the date of receipt of a complete application and any further information the EPA considers necessary. Any person can make a submission online under the relevant application at www.epa.ie or in writing to the EPA in respect of an application for a licence. The EPA will accept submissions after receipt of the application and will take them into consideration prior to making the decision on the PD. There is no charge or fee for making a submission. The applicant, the relevant local authority, certain bodies specified under the legislation (e.g., the Health Services Executive), and any person who made a submission are all notified of the PD.
- 1.8 The EPA has published information on its licensing procedures on the EPA website at www.epa.ie. This publication expands on these procedures to provide information on a specific aspect of the licensing process: namely, the procedures to be observed for objections and Oral Hearings.

2 Objection Stage

The following paragraphs outline the procedures relating to the lodgement of an objection to a proposed decision/determination (PD).

Lodging an objection is subject to certain procedural rules that must be observed at all times. These are set out in Part V of the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended, and Part IV of the EPA Act 1992 as amended.

Licensing regulations made from time to time by the Minister for the relevant Department, support the various provisions of both of these Acts and should be read in conjunction with the Acts.

Set periods for objections

- 2.1 An objection can only be made within the appropriate period. This period is set in legislation at 28 days for Industrial Emissions (IE)/Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) licences and 30 days for Waste licences. The period commences on the date of the EPA's notification of its PD on the application. The applicant or any other person may make an objection.

If the last day for receipt for objections is a Saturday, a Sunday, a Public Holiday or any other day on which the Headquarters of the EPA is officially closed, an objection will be accepted on the next working day.

Note that when calculating the appropriate period, the days from 24 December to 1 January inclusive shall be disregarded.

Where no valid objection is received within the appropriate period, the EPA must issue the final decision as and in accordance with its PD.

Making an objection

- 2.2 An objection can be made online at www.epa.ie. Alternatively, an objection can be made either by sending the objection by prepaid post to EPA Headquarters or by leaving the objection with an employee of the EPA at its Headquarters at Johnstown Castle Estate, County Wexford, Y35 W821, during office hours, i.e. 09:00–17:00h Monday to Friday within the appropriate timeframe. It is important to note that the EPA has no discretionary power with regard to the acceptance of objections that are received outside the appropriate period for objections. A person who proposes to lodge an objection should ensure that the objection is complete in all respects and that it is submitted online or posted to the EPA in good time so that it is received by the EPA within the appropriate period.

What is a valid objection?

- 2.3 The EPA can only consider valid objections. For an objection to be valid, it must:
- be in writing;
 - state the name and address of the objector;
 - state the subject matter of the objection;

- state in full the grounds of the objection and the reasons, considerations and arguments on which they are based;
- be accompanied by all the documents that the objector considers necessary and appropriate;
- state the register reference number of the application for the licence; and
- be accompanied by the fee specified in the legislation (see Appendix 2 of this publication).

The EPA acknowledges all valid objections. Those which are received after the appropriate period, or do not meet the above criteria, are returned to the sender.

An objection can be withdrawn at any time prior to consideration by the Board of the Agency.

Documents accompanying an objection

- 2.4 An objector must ensure that all documents, particulars or other information relating to the objection, which the objector considers necessary or appropriate to the case being made, are attached to the objection. This is particularly relevant where reference is being made in the objection to documentation, which is crucial to the grounds of the objection, but which is not already included in the licence application submitted to the EPA.

Elaboration on an objection

- 2.5 An objection must be comprehensive when it is submitted. Once it has been lodged with the EPA, an objector cannot elaborate further in writing on the grounds for the objection. The EPA cannot consider any such additional material.

Circulation of objections

- 2.6 Every valid objection received by the EPA is copied and circulated to the applicant and all other persons who have lodged valid objections. Only the applicant and any person who made an objection are entitled, but not required, to make a submission to the EPA in respect of anyone else's objection. All such submissions must be made to the EPA within one month of the date of circulation of the objections. Submissions received outside this period cannot be considered. Once a submission is made, no further elaboration or further submission is allowed other than as detailed in the following paragraphs of this section.

Special provision is made in the legislation which allows the EPA, if it considers it appropriate in the interests of justice, to invite an objector or an applicant to make a submission other than that referred to in the previous paragraph, within a period, specified by the EPA, concerning any matter that has arisen in relation to an objection.

In certain circumstances, it may be necessary for the EPA to request an objector to submit, within a period specified by the EPA, certain additional documentation, particulars, or other information to enable the EPA to properly consider an objection.

In certain cases, the EPA may decide that additional matters that have not been raised in any objection should be considered by it. In such cases, the EPA will notify the applicant, and all other persons who have lodged valid objections, of its intentions and of the matters it proposes to take into consideration. Where this happens, each person notified is allowed to make a written submission, within a period specified by the EPA, in relation to such matters.

3 Consideration of Objection

Consideration of an objection

- 3.1 The EPA will examine each objection in detail and assess the specific grounds and issues raised by the objector. It is therefore very important that an objection be as specific as possible, to allow a thorough assessment to be undertaken.

The EPA will carry out the assessment of an objection as quickly as possible and will take all steps necessary to ensure that there are no avoidable delays in considering the objection.

The EPA is required to give its decision at the latest within four months from the date of the end of the appropriate period. However, if it appears to the EPA that, because of particular circumstances, it would not be possible to give its decision within the four-month period, the EPA will notify all parties to the objections in writing, stating the reasons for extending the period for consideration of objections and indicating a date by which a decision will be made.

Decision

- 3.2 Having examined and assessed all objections, the EPA issues its final decision/determination (FD) as set out at 5.4 below.

4 Oral Hearings

Making a request for an oral hearing

- 4.1 An Oral Hearing can only take place where a valid objection has been received. Only a person making an objection can request an Oral Hearing of the objection. There is a fee for an Oral Hearing request, which is set out in the legislation (see Appendix 2 of this publication). The EPA cannot consider a request for an Oral Hearing if it is not accompanied by the fee or received within the appropriate period.

Set periods for requesting an oral hearing

- 4.2 The Waste Management Act 1996 as amended, and EPA Act 1992 as amended specify the appropriate period during which an objector may make a request for an oral hearing of an objection. The period for making a request for an Oral Hearing of an objection is identical to that which applies to making an objection,

i.e., within 28 days for IE/IPC licences and 30 days for Waste licences commencing on the date of the EPA's notification of its PD on the application.

If the last day for receipt of a request for an Oral Hearing of an objection is a Saturday, a Sunday, a Public Holiday or any other day on which the Headquarters of the EPA is officially closed, a request will be accepted on the next working day.

When calculating this period, the days from 24 December to 1 January inclusive are disregarded.

A request for an Oral Hearing can be withdrawn at any time prior to consideration by the Board of the Agency.

Decision to hold an Oral Hearing

- 4.3 The decision to hold an Oral Hearing rests solely with the EPA, which has discretion in this matter irrespective of whether or not a request has been made for such an Oral Hearing. While there are no specific statutory criteria that govern the decision to hold an Oral Hearing, matters that the EPA may have regard to are set out in Appendix 3 of this publication.

The EPA may decide, during the consideration of an objection, and where a request for an Oral Hearing has not been received, to use its discretionary power to hold an Oral Hearing to examine the objections raised to the PD. If the EPA decides not to hold an Oral Hearing, it will give notice in writing of its decision to the person who requested the Oral Hearing.

The following paragraphs set out the procedures to be followed in cases where an Oral Hearing is held.

Procedures prior to oral hearing

- 4.4 If the EPA decides that an Oral Hearing is warranted, it will appoint a person or persons to conduct the Oral Hearing. The person(s) appointed is/are given statutory powers under the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended and the EPA Act 1992 as amended relating to the conduct of the Oral Hearing, including deciding the order of appearance of persons to be heard. The EPA will advise the applicant, local authority/planning authority (where relevant), and those who made valid objections, at least seven days in advance, of the date and venue of the Oral Hearing, unless a shorter period of notice is accepted by all parties.

The EPA may, at any time, prior to the opening of the oral hearing, alter the date or venue, giving at least seven days notice of the new date or venue, unless all parties accept a shorter period of notice.

Format of an Oral Hearing

- 4.5 Oral Hearings convened by the EPA:
- are conducted without undue formality;
 - provide an appropriate forum for all parties to an objection to orally express their objections and concerns about the PD; and

- provide the applicant, an objector and the planning authority/local authority (where relevant) with the opportunity to appear in person and/or to be represented by another person.

Venue for an Oral Hearing

- 4.6 The EPA may decide to hold a hearing at a physical venue, or as a remote or a blended event, using both an online platform and a physical venue. The EPA will secure a venue for the Oral Hearing with a view to minimising any inconvenience to those involved. The selected venue must accommodate all those involved in the Oral Hearing and, as far as is reasonably possible, the general public who may wish to attend.

Attendance at an Oral Hearing

- 4.7 Any person who lodged a valid objection, as well as the applicant, and the planning authority/local authority (where relevant), have an automatic right to attend and to participate fully at an Oral Hearing. An Oral Hearing may not be delayed or cancelled on the grounds that any one or more of the parties fails to attend.

All Oral Hearings are open to the public. Members of the public can participate in the proceedings where they have lodged a valid objection. However, any other member of the public who wishes to participate in the proceedings can only do so with the approval of the Chairperson. Any such request can only be made to and considered by the Chairperson during the course of the Oral Hearing.

The Chairperson shall permit an objector, the applicant, or an employee of the planning authority/local authority (where relevant) to appear or be represented at the Oral Hearing, and where the Chairperson considers it necessary shall give notice requiring such person's attendance. A notice may also require the production of specified documents for the Oral Hearing. The notice requiring the attendance of a person should not be confused with the general notification that an Oral Hearing is to take place.

It will not be necessary for a person who has been issued with a notice requiring attendance and whose ordinary place of residence is more than ten miles from the venue of the Oral Hearing to attend, unless the EPA pays for or tenders the attendance expenses. Where such expenses are recouped, that person must not wilfully neglect or refuse to attend.

Participation at an Oral Hearing

- 4.8 An Oral Hearing will be conducted, as far as is possible, in non-technical language. No technical expertise or background is therefore required of any objector. The applicant and any other party to the Oral Hearing together with any other person allowed to participate at the Oral Hearing by the Chairperson will be afforded an opportunity to outline their objections. Once this has been completed, all matters raised are open for question or discussion among all parties. The Chairperson will decide whether it is more appropriate to take such questions directly following the presentation by each party or to have an open discussion by all parties.

Any person intending to use a video or slides in presenting an objection should notify the EPA well in advance of the Oral Hearing.

Prior to the Oral Hearing, the EPA will have circulated the objections to all parties. An objector proposing to present a written/electronic submission concerning any other objection lodged with the EPA should ensure that the submission is available to all other parties to examine and comment on during the course of the Oral Hearing. If the submission is not readily available, it will not be possible for the submission to be considered until such time as it has been circulated to all the parties and they have been given adequate time to examine and respond to the submission. It is advisable to notify the Chairperson as early as possible before the Oral Hearing that a written submission is to be made in order to avoid delays on the day of the Oral Hearing.

All parties to an objection must provide any documents requested by the Chairperson. Similarly, an officer of a local authority, Irish Water, or a planning authority may be required by notice of the Chairperson to supply such information as is specified for consideration at the Oral Hearing. It is the duty of any person issued with such a notice to comply.

In certain cases, the EPA may decide to take into account matters other than those that have been raised by objectors. The EPA will notify all those concerned, i.e., the objectors, the applicant and the planning authority/local authority (where relevant) of its intentions and of the matters it proposes to consider and will specify a period within which the notified party may make a submission on the matters concerned.

The Chairperson

4.9 The Chairperson may:

- take evidence on oath or affirmation at the oral hearing (a person giving evidence at the Oral Hearing is entitled to the same immunities and privileges as if s/he were a witness in the High Court. Intended Use of the oath or affirmation should be outlined clearly in the opening statement and applied consistently throughout the process.);
- adjourn or resume an Oral Hearing (seven days' notice must be given to all parties where it is intended to resume an Oral Hearing that has been adjourned indefinitely.);
- reopen an Oral Hearing on the instructions of the EPA (An Oral Hearing will not be reopened once the report on the Oral Hearing has been made to the EPA, unless the EPA considers it necessary.);
- proceed with an Oral Hearing even where parties to an objection have failed to attend;
- require a party to the objection, an employee of a planning authority/local authority (where relevant) in whose functional area the relevant activity is or will be carried out to attend the Oral Hearing and to produce documents in their control.

5 Decision Stage

Completion of Oral Hearing

- 5.1 On completion of an Oral Hearing, the Chairperson will submit a report of the Oral Hearing to the Board of the Agency. In this report, the Chairperson must make a recommendation to grant or refuse the licence. Where the recommendation is to grant a licence, the Chairperson must outline the recommended conditions to be attached to the licence or revised licence.

Consideration of report of Oral Hearing

- 5.2 The Board of the Agency must give full consideration to the report and recommendation submitted by the Chairperson of the Oral Hearing before making its decision. It is a matter solely for the EPA to decide whether or not to grant a licence and what conditions should be attached thereto.

Period within which a decision is to be given

- 5.3 The period for consideration of objections by the EPA, whether or not an Oral Hearing is held, is limited to four months. However, if it appears to the EPA that it would not be possible to meet this deadline because of particular circumstances related to the issues involved or to any or all of the objections, the EPA will notify all parties to the objections in writing, stating the reasons for extending the period and indicating a date by which the decision will be made.

Notification of decision

- 5.4 When the final decision to grant or refuse a licence is made, the EPA will notify and supply a copy of the decision to the applicant, the planning authority/local authority (where relevant), bodies specified under the legislation, and all those who made submissions or objections. Details of the decision will also be made available on the EPA website, www.epa.ie.

Copies of every decision, including the Oral Hearing report, will be made available on the EPA website.

Can a decision be appealed?

- 5.5 Any person can apply to the High Court and seek leave to apply for a judicial review of the validity of the EPA decision in relation to the licence application. In the case of a licence application made under the EPA Act 1992 as amended, the period is within eight weeks of the date on which the decision to refuse or grant the licence is made. In the case of a licence application made under the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended, the period is two months.

Appendix 1

Legislation

The following are the key pieces of legislation containing the statutory provisions that govern Waste licensing:

Waste Management Act 1996 as amended

Waste Management (Licensing) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 395 of 2004) as amended

The following are the key pieces of legislation containing the statutory provisions that govern Industrial Emissions (IE) licensing:

Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992 as amended

Environmental Protection Agency (Industrial Emissions) (Licensing) Regulations 2013 (S.I. No. 137 of 2013) as amended

Environmental Protection Agency (Licensing Fees) Regulations 1994 (S.I. No. 130 of 1994) as amended

Environmental Protection Agency (Licensing Fees) Regulations 2013 (S.I. No. 284 of 2013)
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The following are the key pieces of legislation containing the statutory provisions that govern Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) licensing:

Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992 as amended

Environmental Protection Agency (Integrated Pollution Control) (Licensing) Regulations 2013 (S.I. 283 of 2013) as amended

Environmental Protection Agency (Licensing Fees) Regulations 1994 (S.I. No. 130 of 1994) as amended

Appendix 2

Objection and Oral Hearing Request Fees

1. Proposed Decision in respect of waste licence application

Extract from Second Schedule (Part II) of the Waste Management (Licensing) Regulations 2004 as amended.

(1)	(2)	(3) Amount of fee
Article 42	Objection by the applicant or licensee	€500
	Objection by an authority or body mentioned in article 42(3)	€100
	Objection by any other person	€200
Article 44	Request for an Oral Hearing	€100

2. Proposed Determination in respect of IPC or IE licence application

Extract from of the Environmental Protection Agency (Licensing Fees) Regulations 1994 (S.I. No. 130 of 1994) as amended and the Environmental Protection Agency (Licensing Fees) Regulations 2013 (S.I. No. 284 of 2013).

(1)	(2)	(3) Amount of fee
Article 8(2) of S.I. No. 130 of 1994 or Article 7(2) of S.I. No. 284 of 2013	Objection by the applicant or licensee	€253
	Objection by any other person other than a person mentioned in article 8(3) or 7(3) of Regulations	€126
Article 8(3) of S.I. No. 130 of 1994 or Article 7(3) of S.I. No. 284 of 2013	Objection by an authority or body mentioned in article 8(3) or 7(3) of Regulations	€63
Article 7(C)(2) of S.I. No. 130 of 1994 or Article 8(2) of S.I. No. 284 of 2013	Request for an Oral Hearing	€100

Appendix 3

Criteria considered for the holding of an Oral Hearing

While there are no specific statutory criteria that govern the decision to hold an Oral Hearing, matters that the EPA may have regard to would include:

1. New significant information or new issues not previously raised that are specific to the location or the development.
2. The sensitivity of the location or local environment.
3. Whether it is a matter of national or regional importance.
4. The scale or complexity of the development.
5. New information/evidence which materially conflicts with previous evidence.
6. If it is in the interest of fair procedure.

An Gníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil

Tá an GCC freagrach as an gcomhshaoil a chosaint 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 truaillithe.

Is féidir obair na Gníomhaireachta a roinnt ina trí phríomhréimse:

- Rialáil:** Rialáil agus córais chomhlíonta comhshaoil éifeachtacha a chur i bhfeidhm, chun dea-thorthaí comhshaoil a bhaint amach agus díriú orthu siúd nach mbíonn ag cloí leo.
- Eolas:** Sonraí, eolas agus measúnú ardchaighdeán, spriocdhírthe agus tráthúil a chur ar fáil i leith an chomhshaoil chun bonn eolais a chur faoin gcinnteoireacht.
- Abhcóideacht:** Ag obair le daoine eile ar son timpeallachta glaine, táirgiúla agus dea-chosanta agus ar son cleachtas inbhuanaithe i dtaobh an chomhshaoil.

I measc ár gcuid freagrachtaí tá:

CEADÚNÚ

- Gníomhaíochtaí tionscail, dramhaíola agus stórála peitрил ar scála mór;
- Sceitheadh fuíolluisce uirbigh;
- Úsáid shrianta agus scaoileadh rialaithe Orgánach Géinmhodhnaithe;
- Foinsí radaíochta ianúcháin;
- Astaíochtaí gás ceaptha teasa ó thionscal agus ón eitlíocht trí Scéim an AE um Thrádáil Astaíochtaí.

FORFHEIDHMÍÚ NÁISIÚNTA I LEITH CÚRSAÍ COMHSHAOIL

- Iniúchadh agus cigireacht ar shaoráidí a bhfuil ceadúnas acu ón GCC;
- Cur i bhfeidhm an dea-chleachtais a stiúradh i ngníomhaíochtaí agus i saoráidí rialáilte;
- Maoirseacht a dhéanamh ar fhreagrachtaí an údaráis áitiúil as cosaint an chomhshaoil;
- Caighdeán an uisce óil phoiblí a rialáil agus údaruithe um sceitheadh fuíolluisce uirbigh a fhorfheidhmiú;
- Caighdeán an uisce óil phoiblí agus phríobháidigh a mheasúnú agus tuairiscíú air;
- Comhordú a dhéanamh ar líonra d'eagraíochtaí seirbhíse poiblí chun tacú le gníomhú i gcoinne coireachta comhshaoil;
- An dlí a chur orthu siúd a bhriseann dlí an chomhshaoil agus a dhéanann dochar don chomhshaoil.

BAINISTÍOCHT DRAMHAÍOLA AGUS CEIMICEÁIN SA CHOMHSHAOIL

- Rialacháin dramhaíola a chur i bhfeidhm agus a fhorfheidhmiú lena n-áirítear saincheisteanna forfheidhmithe náisiúnta;
- Staitisticí dramhaíola náisiúnta a ullmhú agus a fhoilsiú chomh maith leis an bPlean Náisiúnta um Bainistíocht Dramhaíola Guaisí;
- An Clár Náisiúnta um Chosc Dramhaíola a fhorbairt agus a chur i bhfeidhm;
- Reachtaíocht ar rialú ceimiceán sa timpeallacht a chur i bhfeidhm agus tuairiscíú ar an reachtaíocht sin.

BAINISTÍOCHT UISCE

- Plé le struchtúir náisiúnta agus réigiúnacha rialachais agus oibriúcháin chun an Chreat-treoir Uisce a chur i bhfeidhm;
- Monatóireacht, measúnú agus tuairiscíú a dhéanamh ar chaighdeán aibhneacha, lochanna, uiscí idirchreasa agus cósta, uiscí snámha agus screamhuisce chomh maith le tomhas ar leibhéal uisce agus sreabhadh abhann.

EOLAÍOCHT AERÁIDE & ATHRÚ AERÁIDE

- Fardail agus réamh-mheastacháin a fhoilsiú um astaíochtaí gás ceaptha teasa na hÉireann;
- Rúnaíocht a chur ar fáil don Chomhairle Chomhairleach ar Athrú Aeráide agus tacaíocht a thabhairt don Idirphlé Náisiúnta ar Gníomhú ar son na hAeráide;

- Tacú le gníomhaíochtaí forbartha Náisiúnta, AE agus NA um Eolaíocht agus Beartas Aeráide.

MONATÓIREACHT AGUS MEASÚNÚ AR AN GCOMHSHAOIL

- Córais náisiúnta um monatóireacht an chomhshaoil a cheapadh agus a chur i bhfeidhm: teicneolaíocht, bainistíocht sonraí, anailís agus réamhaisnéisiú;
- Tuairiscí ar Staid Timpeallacht na hÉireann agus ar Tháscairí a chur ar fáil;
- Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar chaighdeán an aeir agus Treoir an AE i leith Aeir Ghlain don Eoraip a chur i bhfeidhm chomh maith leis an gCoinbhinsiún ar Aerthruailliú Fadraoin Trasteorann, agus an Treoir i leith na Teorann Náisiúnta Astaíochtaí;
- Maoirseacht a dhéanamh ar chur i bhfeidhm na Treorach i leith Torainn Timpeallachta;
- Measúnú a dhéanamh ar thionchar pleananna agus clár beartaithe ar chomhshaoil na hÉireann.

TAIGHDE AGUS FORBAIRT COMHSHAOIL

- Comhordú a dhéanamh ar ghníomhaíochtaí taighde comhshaoil agus iad a mhaoiniú chun brú a aithint, bonn eolais a chur faoin mbeartas agus réitigh a chur ar fáil;
- Comhoibriú le gníomhaíocht náisiúnta agus AE um thaighde comhshaoil.

COSAINN RAIDEOLAÍOCH

- Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar leibhéal radaíochta agus nochtadh an phobail do radaíocht ianúcháin agus do réimsí leictreamaighnéadacha a mheas;
- Cabhrú le pleananna náisiúnta a fhorbairt le haghaidh éigeandálaí ag eascairt as taismí núicléacha;
- Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar fhorbairtí thar lear a bhaineann le saoráidí núicléacha agus leis an tsábháilteacht raideolaíochta;
- Sainseirbhísí um chosaint ar an radaíocht a sholáthar, nó maoirsiú a dhéanamh ar sholáthar na seirbhísí sin.

TREOIR, ARDÚ FEASACHTA AGUS FAISNÉIS INROCHTANA

- Tuairiscíú, comhairle agus treoir neamhspleách, fianaise-bhunaithe a chur ar fáil don Rialtas, don tionscal agus don phobal ar ábhair maidir le cosaint comhshaoil agus raideolaíoch;
- An nasc idir sláinte agus folláine, an geilleagar agus timpeallacht ghlan a chur chun cinn;
- Feasacht comhshaoil a chur chun cinn lena n-áirítear tacú le hiompraíocht um éifeachtúlacht acmhainní agus aistriú aeráide;
- Tástáil radóin a chur chun cinn i dtithe agus in ionaid oibre agus feabhsúchán a mholadh áit is gá.

COMHPHÁIRTÍOCHT AGUS LÍONRÚ

Oibriú le gníomhaireachtaí idirnáisiúnta agus náisiúnta, údaráis réigiúnacha agus áitiúla, eagraíochtaí neamhrialtais, comhlachtaí ionadaíochta agus ranna rialtais chun cosaint comhshaoil agus raideolaíoch a chur ar fáil, chomh maith le taighde, comhordú agus cinnteoireacht bunaithe ar an eolaíocht.

BAINISTÍOCHT AGUS STRUCHTÚR NA GNÍOMHAIREACHTA UM CHAOMHNÚ COMHSHAOIL

Tá an GCC á bainistiú ag Bord Iánaimseartha, ar a bhfuil Ard-Stiúrthóir agus cúigear Stiúrthóir. Déantar an obair ar fud cúig cinn d'Oifigí:

- An Oifig um Inbhuanaitheacht i leith Cúrsaí Comhshaoil
- An Oifig Forfheidhmithe i leith Cúrsaí Comhshaoil
- An Oifig um Fhianaise agus Measúnú
- An Oifig um Chosaint ar Radaíocht agus Monatóireacht Comhshaoil
- An Oifig Cumarsáide agus Seirbhísí Corparáideacha

Tugann coistí comhairleacha cabhair don Gníomhaireacht agus tagann siad le chéile go rialta le plé a dhéanamh ar ábhair imní agus le comhairle a chur ar an mBord.

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