

SOUTH WEST WALES REGIONAL WASTE ASSESSMENT AND PLAN
MEETING OF THE REGIONAL TECHNICAL OFFICERS GROUP
Notes of the meeting held on Wednesday 17th August 2005, at 10.30am
Council Chamber, Penllergaer Civic Centre.

Present

Ceri Morris (Chair)	Neath Port Talbot CBC
Vaughan Thomas	Neath Port Talbot CBC
Carol A Williams	Pembrokeshire CC / PCNPA
Dave Harries	Pembrokeshire CC
Neil Bateman	Carmarthenshire County Council
Hugh Towns	Carmarthenshire County Council
Phil Williams	Carmarthenshire County Council
Alison Thomas	City & County of Swansea
Graham Dorrington	Ceredigion County Council
Philip Marks	CYLCH
Steve Bool	Bridgend County Borough Council
Huw Jenkins	Bridgend County Borough Council
Audrey Evans	Environment Agency (SW Wales)
Miranda Lewis	Environment Agency
Sue Martin	Welsh Assembly Government
Andy Rees	Welsh Assembly Government (Waste Strategy Unit)
Karen Maddock-Jones	CCW

1. **Apologies**

Geoff White	Neath Port Talbot CBC
Ruth Brown	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
Julian Smith	West Wales Chamber of Commerce
Adrian Jones	Welsh Assembly Government (Waste Strategy Unit)
Graham Bishop	Wales Environment Trust
Nick Oakes	Ceredigion County Council

2. **Minutes of the Technical Group meeting held on 15th April 2005**

The minutes were **agreed** to be a true record and there were no matters arising.

3. **Regional Waste Group Contract: Report on Hazardous Waste**
[Report of Consultation (August 2005) / Consultation Addendum Report (August 2005) /
Report on Hazardous Waste (Draft – August 2005)]

CM referred to the above circulated documents and reported the following:

- a great deal of work has gone into the re-drafting of the Report, both by officers from the three lead authorities, the WAG Waste Strategy Unit and EA (Wales);
- a real effort has been made to achieve a Report that satisfies most, if not all, of the issues and concerns that have been raised;
- the *Report of Consultation (August 2005)* has been generated from the responses received following the 4 week consultation period;
- responses were received from Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, The Crown Estate, West Wales Chamber of Commerce and the WAG WSU. Subsequent responses were also received from EA (Wales) and jointly from Pembrokeshire County Council and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority. It was noted that although these comments were 'late', they were on this occasion

given due consideration;

- the **Consultation Addendum Report (August 2005)** has been generated from additional comments submitted by the WAG WSU on an initial re-draft following the formal consultation;
- a total of 32 additional comments were submitted: 1 by the EA (Wales) – fully accepted / 1 support – duly noted / and of the remaining 30 comments, 18 were fully accepted / 9 were partially accepted / and 3 were considered either unachievable or unnecessary;
- the **Draft Report on Hazardous Waste (August 2005)** incorporates all the recommendations made in the two Consultation Reports;
- similar versions of the *Draft Report* have been prepared in each of the other two regions; and
- there is the need for the RTG to agree the Report (subject to further amendments) to enable a final Draft to be put to the next MF meeting scheduled for Friday 9th September.

CM then referred to the circulated set of additional comments submitted by the WAG WSU received on Tuesday 16th August. It was agreed that the Draft Report be taken page by page considering the further comments where necessary. The following amendments were **agreed**:

- Paragraph 2.5: include a web-link referencing the Hazardous Waste List. **Action**: AR to provide the web-link;
- Paragraph 2.6: Delete 3rd sentence and replace with ***“Future production levels of hazardous waste is uncertain. A recent historical reduction in the production of such wastes, coupled with changing practices by a few large producing sectors could result in a significant reduction in some categories of hazardous waste. Conversely, this could be offset by the wider scope of the above Regulations compared to the historical situation”***;
- Paragraph 3.6: Amend to read ***“The EA has advised that current arisings of asbestos wastes are fairly constant year-on-year. The EA’s on-line ‘Hazardous Waste Interrogator’ shows this and that between 1999 and 2003 arisings of asbestos in South West Wales had an average of 3890 tonnes / annum. Future arisings will however, have to be closely monitored. The fact that the regulation of asbestos is now tighter than has historically been the case and that managers of premises are becoming more risk-aware, asbestos consignments could potentially increase over time until historic liabilities have been largely resolved”***;
- Paragraph 3.7: Add following text to the end of the paragraph ***“Again, future arisings will need to be closely monitored, as some contaminated land remediation projects can generate significant tonnes of contaminated soil”***;
- Paragraph 3.10: Add following text to the end of the paragraph ***“This current scenario is not in line with the proximity principle laid down in the EC Waste Framework Directive”***;
- Paragraph 4.3: Delete ***“clear”***;
- Paragraph 5.10: Amend to read ***“...additional transfer stations are likely to be required...”***;
- Paragraph 5.17: Amend to read ***“...additional hazardous waste treatment stations, for example WEEE disassembly plants, are likely to be required...”***;
- Paragraph 5.20: Amend last sentence to read ***“It is believed that there are currently...”***;
- Paragraph 5.21: Delete ***“hazardousness”*** and replace with ***“the hazard nature”***;
- Paragraph 5.23: Delete ***“Given that the buildings in which these facility types are housed would require a stack, it would probably be inappropriate to locate such a facility on a valley floor”***;
- Paragraph 5.34: Delete ***“Whilst one of the key objectives of the NWSW is to minimise, where practicable, the use of landfill, the Strategy acknowledges”*** and replace with ***“The NWSW states”***;
- Paragraph 5.43: Amend 2nd sentence to read ***“At present there is no cost effective option for treating asbestos”***;
- Paragraph 5.44: Add the following text after the 3rd sentence ***“A further important factor to consider here however, is that it is important that a balance is struck, as a lack of facilities might lead to an element of illegal behaviour”***;
- Paragraph 5.45: Delete ***“There is uncertainty about the extent to which waste producers will be prepared to pay the increased costs implicit in implementing the Landfill Directive”***;

- Paragraph 5.51: Reword to read “*Should such a designated hazardous waste landfill be needed having potential for the contamination of soil or groundwater in the event of a structural or operational failure, then over and above the requirements of a properly engineered site, there would be advantage in locating the facility in a clay environment to increase the security of containment*”;
- Paragraph 6.5: 1st sentence replace “*the*” with “*a*”;
- Paragraph 6.7: Add the following text after the 2nd sentence “*For instance, the identified negative location criteria can, in some cases, be ameliorated by abatement technology*”;
- Paragraph 6.9: Add the following text at the end of the paragraph “*This would fall under the responsibility of the Environment Agency*”;
- Paragraph 7.4: Amend last sentence to read “*TAN21 highlights the data gathering responsibilities of local authorities and consequently the Regional Waste Co-ordinators are currently in discussion with the Welsh Assembly Government Waste Strategy Unit to establish how better to collect the necessary data*” and add referencing footnote (Para. 6.14); and
- Appendix B (Page 36 Transfer Station / Locational Considerations): Amend to read “major facilities should be *served* by...”.

Subject to incorporating the above amendments, the ‘Report on Hazardous Waste’ was **agreed**.

4. GIS Mapping Research: Progress Report from the WAG

Following the cancellation of the Dissemination & Training seminar, SM reported the following:

- the research and final report has been completed;
- referring to the circulated letter, it was noted that the Chair of the South East Forum has written to Carwyn Jones expressing concern over the publication of the research prior to any form of consultation or involvement with the Regional Groups;
- In response to this request the WAG will be asking each of the Regional Groups to convene a meeting to enable RPS to present the research and to enable further discussion of the project with WAG officers. These meetings are unlikely to take place until the end of October;
- SM stressed that the research has been carried out on behalf of the three regions to achieve a consistent approach across Wales;
- The schedule for the launch of the project has not yet been agreed by the Minister. A meeting to discuss this has been arranged for Wednesday 31st August; and
- The RTG / MF will be informed once arrangements have been made. **Action:** CM.

5. Capacities – Existing & Proposed Facilities

CM reminded the Group that the WAG is keen to improve the availability of Capacity data for both existing and proposed waste management facilities.

AR confirmed that a paper is currently being prepared for circulation which will identify the specific data requirements and a proposed protocol for the collection of data. It was noted that one of the problem areas is to agree, with DEFRA, the definition of “capacity”. It is anticipated that a Draft paper will be completed by early September.

It was **agreed** that the matter should be discussed in greater detail following the circulation of the paper from the WAG.

6. Future Work Programme

CM referred to the circulated *Future Work Programme Supporting Note*. The opportunity was taken to highlight the work programme that is required of the Group over the next 18 months, emphasising the key

tasks and target dates.

With regard to securing future regional / sub-regional facilities in South West Wales, it was noted that Cllr. Palmer is anxious to gain a 'higher form of political agreement' (i.e. at Leader level), to ensure co-operation between the constituent authorities. Cllr. Palmer is keen to get the message across that "if we don't reach agreement, we will be in danger of having it imposed on us".

CM highlighted that a series of meetings are to take place over the coming months, arranged by the WLGA and to be attended by Corporate Directors, in order to highlight the scope for joint working on waste management. **Action:** CM to circulate WLGA letter and to confirm the date of the meeting in South West Wales.

7. **Date of Next Meeting** - To be arranged.

8. **Any Other Business**

ML reported that the EA's C&I Research has been completed and will soon be presented to the WAG. It is anticipated that the regional data will be provided to the lead authorities by early September.

SM reported that the Smiths Gore C&D 2003 Survey has been completed, though the final Report has yet to be circulated. It was also confirmed that the WAG will be ready in January to begin facilitating the 2005 Survey.

AE reported that since the last RTG meeting, the EA has permitted 'non-hazardous' licences to Palleg / Giants Grave / and Nant Y Caws Landfill sites.

Site Visit to a MBT Facility: CM reported that as the proposed site visit to the Leicester facility has been delayed, the possibility of a visit to the MBT facility at Crymlyn Burrows was being investigated. **Action:** CM to inform the RTG of any progress.

CM reported that Clifford Parish has recently taken up new employment with the Vale of Glamorgan. It was noted that CP had been thanked, on behalf of the Group, for his contribution to the work of the RTG.