#### IGI Conference Dublin Castle 11th Nov. 2005

# A Hazardous Landfill for **Ireland**

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Article 5 of the Irish Constitution proudly proclaims that; 'Ireland is a sovereign, independent, democratic state.'

The Constitution makes reference to the ownership and management of the state's natural resources including;

Energy Mines Minerals Waters & Seas

However, the Constitution makes **no reference** to our wastes, hazardous or otherwise!

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#### **National Waste Management**

- A sovereign and independent state would be expected, where possible, to manage the wastes generated **within** that state without dependence on other states and so;
- Article 5 of the 1975 Directive on Waste requires Member States to move towards self sufficiency in waste disposal
- This national aspiration is reflected in the 2001 National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (NHWMP) which recommended recommended that;
- 'In order to apply the proximity principle and to ensure security of hazardous waste recovery and disposal outlets, Ireland should seek to become **self sufficient** in hazardous waste recovery and disposal capacity.'

- 'At least two engineered cells .....should be developed.'
  ...in the south west and Dublin areas.'
  'these cells could be constructed adjacent to existing landfill facilities'

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#### **National Hazardous Waste Objectives**

The NHWMP (2001) also identified a National Long Term Priority as;

'The achievement of **self sufficiency** in hazardous waste management.'

NHWMP (2001) concluded;

'Reliance on hazardous waste disposal facilities in other countries is not desirable.'

NHWMP (2001) noted that;

...Member States may and do restrict the movement of waste for disposal'

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#### National Waste Infrastructure

- Waste Management Facilities are a necessary infrastructure for a modern Country.
- Significant progress has been made in the past 5 years in establishing a modern waste management infrastructure.
- Ireland now has many state of the art landfills for non-hazardous wastes.
- Plans are well advanced for incinerators to cater for non-hazardous and hazardous wastes.
- No progress has been made in providing landfill capacity for hazardous wastes.

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#### **Hazardous Waste Waste Statistics**

- c. 325,000 tonnes of hazardous waste generated in Ireland per annum
- c. 52,000 tonnes of hazardous waste were exported to Germany for landfilling in 2003 consisting of;
  - •40,000 tonnes of contaminated soils
  - •12,000 tonnes of other hazardous waste
    - Planned Hazardous and Non-hazardous Waste Incinerators

Incinerators
will also generate hazardous ash waste

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# Achieving Self Sufficiency

- No landfill has planning permission to accept hazardous waste!
- Likelyhood of retrofitting a planning permission for a non-hazardous waste site to include hazardous waste would be LOW.
- Local Authorities are **unlikely** to seek permission for disposal of hazardous waste.
- Will the private sector develop a landfill for hazardous wastes generated in Ireland?
- Certainty of outcome of the regulatory process & associated costs are major barriers for the private sector.
- Certainty within the current regulatory process lies with a New Site for a landfill to accept both hazardous and non-hazardous wastes.

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Landfill	County	Planning	Licence
Bottlehill	Cork	Yes	Yes
Knockharley	Meath	Yes	Yes
Ballyguyroe	Cork	Refused	Yes
Annaskinnan	Westmeath	Refused	Yes
Calf Field	Kildare/Meath	Refused	Yes (PD)
Gortadroma	Limerick	Part (5 of 11	Yes
		Cells)	
East Galway	Galway	Yes	Yes
Usk	Kildare	?	Yes
Drehid	Kildare	?	Yes

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## Locating A Landfill For Hazardous Wastes

#### Regulatory Guidance;

- Landfill Directive (geological barrier > 5m thick & k < 1.0x10<sup>-9</sup>m/s.)
- EPA Landfill Design Manual-(geological barrier > 5m thick & k< 1.0x10<sup>-9</sup>m/s)
- Geological barrier can be completed artificially.
- Principles of GSI/EPA/DOELG Responses for groundwater resources also applicable to sitting of hazardous waste landfills
- Geology and Hydrogeology Therefore Critical in Site Selection

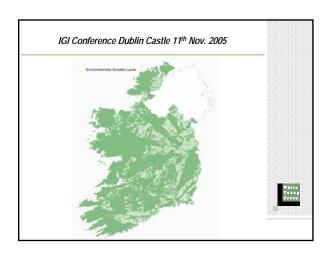
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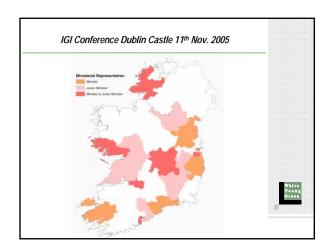
## Locating A Landfill For Hazardous Wastes

# Guidance from Recent Landfill Oral Hearings

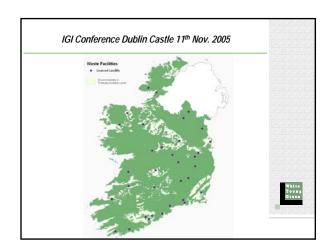
Main Issues or Concerns Raised by Objectors;

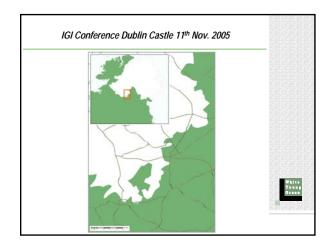
- Proximity to dwellings/schools/agri-industries
- Inadequacy of road infra-structure/access
- Pollution of water resources (groundwater and surface water)
- Proximity to waste arisings
- Nuisances e.g odours/litter/vermin/noise
- Property devaluationHuman Health
- Human Health











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- It is not sustainable for Ireland to continue to produce hazardous waste in ever greater quantities without developing appropriate disposal facilities located within our jurisdiction and under our own control.
- Such a disposal facility is a necessary element of our developing integrated national waste infrastructure.
- Hopefully the 2006 Review of the NHWMP will map a way forward through the many regulatory, political, social and commercial barriers to the provision of this important national asset.
- Geology will play a key role in any site selection process and geologists & hydrogeologists will be at the forefront in identifying, testing and monitoring a safe and suitable location for a landfill for our hazardous wastes.