

26 March 2021

Ms. Aoife Joyce
Department of Communications, Climate Action and
Environment
Ireland

Ms. Jean Kelleher
Irish Underwater Council
Ireland

Dear Ms. Joyce,
Dear Ms. Kelleher,

**Re: Communication concerning compliance by Ireland with articles 5 and 6 of the Convention
with respect to Dumping at Sea Permits (ACCC/C/2016/139)**

I write to confirm that, after taking into account the views of the Party concerned and communicant on whether a hearing was needed in this case, the Committee has agreed that it will prepare its draft findings on the substance of the communication without holding a hearing.

To that end, the Committee has identified a short set of questions, enclosed, for the written reply of the Party concerned and the communicant. I would be grateful to receive your reply to the enclosed questions by **Friday, 16 April 2021**. Please send your reply to aarhus.compliance@un.org, copying the other party.

Although you are under no obligation to do so, if you would like to provide any brief final written submissions with respect to the issues addressed in the Committee's questions, you are invited to provide these together with your replies to the enclosed questions.

Please do not hesitate to contact the secretariat if you have any questions regarding the above.

Yours sincerely,



Fiona Marshall
Secretary to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee

Cc: Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations Office and other international
organizations in Geneva
Ms. Attracta Uí Bhroin, Environmental Pillar, Observer

Enc: Questions from the Committee to the parties

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Questions to the Party concerned:

1. Please provide the text of any legal provisions or guidance that prescribe the information that is to be included in the public notice for an DAS permit application concerning the nature of the material to be dumped:
 - (a) As in force on 27 April 2014, when the public notice for DAS permit S0015-2 was published;¹
 - (b) As currently in force.
2. Please provide the text of any legal provisions or guidance that prescribe the information that is to be included in the public notice for an DAS permit application concerning the timeframe of the dumping activities. If the relevant provisions or guidance have been revised between the Convention's entry into force for Ireland and the present time, please provide both versions, indicating when the current version entered into effect.
3. Condition 3.10(ii) of permit S0004-1 required that:

“Information relating to the activity shall be automatically recorded during each dumping voyage and shall as a minimum contain details of the following:

...

 - (ii) The source of the substance or material (latitude and longitude coordinates in degrees and decimal minutes).

With respect to article 5(1)(a) of the Convention, why do you consider that the information that the operator is required by the conditions of its DAS permit to record on the source of the material dumped at sea is not environmental information which is relevant to the EPA's functions to monitor and enforce DAS permits²?

Questions to the communicant:

4. Please provide the latest version of the Environmental Protection Agency's Dumping at Sea Register.
5. For each of the permits listed in the Dumping at Sea Register, what was the commencement and end date of loading and dumping activities specified in the public notice concerning the permit application? Please provide your reply in the form of a table, with columns setting out (i) the DAS permit reference, (ii) the start and end date of the dumping activities as granted in the permit, (iii) the start and end date of the dumping activities as stated in the public notice.
6. For which of the permits in the Dumping at Sea Register issued since September 2012 have loading and dumping activities been carried out but the required two-week notice before commencing activities are not available on the EPA website? For any permits whose

¹ Communicant's reply to Committee's questions, 5 September 2016, annex 2.

² Communicant's reply to Committee's questions, 5 September 2016, annex 8, pp. 4 and 6.

commencement notices are not available on the EPA website, please indicate whether those particular notices are accessible via the public computer at the EPA's regional offices.

7. Which of the permits in the Dumping at Sea Register have to your knowledge been amended since September 2012 but the content of the amendment is not available on the EPA website? For any amendments which are not available on the EPA website, please indicate whether those particular amendments are accessible via the public computer at the EPA's regional offices.
 8. Which of the permits in the Dumping at Sea Register have to your knowledge been the subject of enforcement correspondence since September 2012 but the content of that correspondence is not available on the EPA website? For any such correspondence that is not available on the EPA website, please indicate whether it is accessible via the public computer at the EPA's regional offices.
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