

HID Chemical Industries Forum (CIF) Meetings			
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Implementation Of HSE's Fundamental Review Of Land Use Planning (FRLUP)

Issue

1. This note informs the CIF of work to implement recommendations from a recent review of HSE's role in Land Use Planning (LUP).

Background

2. HID is involved in the planning process for chemical installations, pipelines, and explosive sites. This involves advising local planning authorities (LPAs) on hazardous substances consents (permissioning for new major hazard sites) and setting consultation zones around them, and advising the health and safety implications of new developments which would increase or introduce populations into those zones. HID is consulted on about 4000 planning applications each year.
3. The FRLUP considered whether HSE's role was still valid, legally robust, in line with broader government policy for land development and whether this resource intensive work could be undertaken more effectively.
4. The review recommended:
 - The criteria and methodology used for setting planning zones and for "calling in" planning applications should be reviewed and, if necessary, revised and then published
 - HSE's advice to LPAs on chemical major hazards and pipelines should be further codified so that transparent and accurate advice can be given without detailed Individual assessment of planning applications
 - The codified generic advice should be devolved to LPAs so that they can deal with the vast majority of planning applications which are in the vicinity of chemical major hazards and pipelines

Progress

5. A Project was established at the beginning of March 2002. In total, 13 essential outputs (Products) were identified. The work is expected to take 3 to 4 years to complete.
6. Work has started on the first three Products. These are:
 - P3:Aims and Objectives of Major Hazards and Pipelines Land Use Planning
 - P4:Decision Boundaries (the basis for planning zones [consultation distances])
 - P5:Review of Assessment Methodology
7. Work will start later this year on P11:Consents (to consider solutions to difficulties caused by setting consultation distances based on deemed consents and generic categories)

8. The Project Team recognise the importance of engaging stakeholders. Two industry representatives (from BP and the CIA) will be contributing to Products P3 and P4.

Action

9. CIF is asked to consider whether it would like to meet with members of the Project Team to obtain more information on this project and discuss relevant issues. The Project Team would welcome the opportunity to present at the next CIF meeting.

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