EIA Quality Mark
Case Study

Guernsey Waste Treatment Facility: Environmental Impact Assessment

Key Issues –
In 2015/16 Amec Foster Wheeler prepared an Environmental Statement on behalf of the States of Guernsey, for the development of a strategic waste management facility for the island.

The focus of this case study is on how Amec Foster Wheeler implemented the provisions of the States of Guernsey’s Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) legislation – highlighting both the key similarities and differences with the UK EIA procedures and demonstrating how we applied our UK experience (as appropriate) to inform implementation of the Guernsey system, which was still in its infancy (i.e. the Land Planning and Development (Environmental Impact Assessment) Ordinance, 2007).

In addition, this case study demonstrates the pivotal role that community and stakeholder engagement played in both the design and assessment stages of the proposed waste facility – a direct reflection of:

1. The nature of environmental regulation in Guernsey; and
2. The proposed development being located within a small island community.

Purpose of the project
- New waste infrastructure was required to implement the provisions of the States of Guernsey’s 2012 Revised Waste Strategy.

- The States of Guernsey Public Services Department (now Trading Assets) sought planning permission for the construction of a new 32,500 tonnes per annum waste transfer station and 7,000 tonnes per annum household waste recycling centre (HWRC).

Description of the project
- The waste transfer station and HWRC would be capable of handling non-hazardous municipal, commercial and industrial waste.

- The site of the proposed development is located on a 4.2 ha area of reclaimed land within Guernsey’s Longue Hougue Industrial Area.

- The site is on an exposed and visually prominent ‘island gateway’ marine location.

- The site is adjacent to the island’s only meat production unit, producing nationally recognised Guernsey beef.

- There had been a number of previously unsuccessful waste applications on the site.
EIA Learning Outcomes

**Lessons learnt**

Environmental and planning legislation for the States of Guernsey is unique to the island and there are important differences compared with the United Kingdom. A key factor in the successful delivery of the project therefore, was the need for Amec Foster Wheeler’s project managers and technical specialists to understand the key difference, which included the following.

- Scoping the EIA – under the EIA Ordnance the States of Guernsey Planning Department does not issue a formal Scoping Opinion until up to 28 days after the receipt of a planning application for a development for which it is established that an EIA is required. As there is no formal process for providing a scoping opinion in advance of the submission of a planning application, Amec Foster Wheeler undertook a number of consultation exercises over a 12 month period in order to informally establish and ‘scope’ what information should be provided in the ES.

- Good practice guidance and advice – despite Guernsey having its own bespoke environmental legislation, unlike in the UK, there is (at present) very little associated best practice advice relating to individual environmental disciplines and the associated assessment of effects / thresholds of significance of effect.

In terms of the former, given the propensity of the formal EIA process to load formal consultation at the end of the regulatory process, a key factor was to deliver sustained, meaningful consultation with relevant stakeholders (including the local community). This ensured that once the planning application and ES had been submitted, it was validated and processed smoothly.

**Lessons learnt cont. -**

Excellent working relationships with Guernsey’s statutory regulators were established at the outset — including the Planning Department and the Office of Environmental Health and Pollution Regulation. Furthermore, Amec Foster Wheeler assisted the States’ own communications team with the design and delivery of an effective programme of community and wider stakeholder consultation, which was delivered throughout the process of preparing the planning application and ES.

Regarding the second point, in undertaking the assessment of effects for the EIA, reference was made to the relevant States of Guernsey Government planning policy, standards and guidance. Where there was no relevant guidance it was necessary for our team to use its professional judgement to identify the most suitable UK or Republic of Ireland guidance/advice, and agree with the relevant consultees within the States of Guernsey over its implementation. The success of this ongoing consultation resulted in the submission of an ES that was validated with no requirement for additional information and a planning application that attracted no objections.

**Contact details**

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- Claire acted as planning advisor and assisted with EIA co-ordination.

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