



Determination on the Requirement for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening for Exploration Drilling

DECC Reference:	4502_2023_003
PL Area(s)	4502
County	Meath
Licensee	Boliden Tara Mines DAC

The Minister has assessed the drilling activity proposed by the company in accordance with the criteria set out in S.8A(4) of the Minerals Development Act 1940, as amended (listed below).

The Minister has determined that the activities will not require a screening determination for EIA in accordance with S.8A(6) of that Act.

	The proposed drilling activity has been assessed taking into account the criteria set out below
(a)	The site where the proposed activity will take place is less than one hectare
(b)	The site where the proposed activity will take place is more than 100 metres from- <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) land to which a notice under section 16 of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000 of an intention of the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to make an order designating land as a natural heritage area under section 18 of that Act applies, or(ii) land designated a natural heritage area under section 18 of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000;
(c)	The site where the proposed activity will take place is not within a European site;



(d)	No equipment capable of waste spillage or process run-off shall be operated for the purpose of the proposed activity within 10 metres of a watercourse which is a river or lake entered on those parts of the register of protected areas established by the Environmental Protection Agency under Regulation 8 of the European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (S.I. No. 722 of 2003) called respectively "WFD Riverwater Bodies that are protected for drinking water" and "WFD Lakewater bodies that are protected for drinking water";
(e)	The site where the proposed activity will take place is more than 100 metres from water abstraction carried on for the purpose of human consumption on a non - commercial basis;
(f)	The site where the proposed activity will take place is more than 300 metres from water abstraction carried on for the purpose of supply of water to the public;
(g)	The equipment proposed to be operated for the purpose of the proposed activity has been tested and a report of the results of the test shows that noise caused by that equipment shall not, at the nearest noise sensitive receptor, exceed noise limits set out in guidelines issued by the Environmental Protection Agency for the time being called NG4;
(h)	The site where the proposed activity will take place is not situated in any national park owned by and managed on behalf of the State.

Environmental Information available on DECC website .	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exploration Drilling - Guidance on Discharge to Surface and Groundwater (2019)• Guidance for Good Environmental Practice in Mineral Exploration (2019)• Environmental Safeguards- The Irish Way (2006)• Expert Environmental Guidance R4 – Drilling (2017)
Authority	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
Date of Notice	28 August 2023