

Notice of Intention to Grant a Prospecting Licence

Since it appears to the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications (the Minister) that there are minerals not being worked under the lands in the areas set out below, pursuant to section 7(1) of the Minerals Development Act 1940, as amended, the Minister intends to grant a prospecting licence for **Base Metals, barytes, silver, gold, Rare Earth Elements and Platinum Group Metals** to **Earth Source Ltd, Galderbeg, Glenelg, Kyle, Highland, Scotland, IV40 8JZ, United Kingdom** over the following Townlands in **Co Wexford**:

Bargy Barony: Baldwinstown, Ballybought, Ballycross, Ballyharty, Beckville, Bellary, Bellgrovegross, Blackstone, Bridgetown South, Castletown, Commons, Coolycall, Cull, Duncormick, Duncormick Hill, Gibberpatrick, Gibberwell, Glebe, Graiguesallagh, Hill, Hooks, Horseland, Inish and Ballyteige Slob, Kilcowan Lower, Kilcowan Upper, Killag, Knocknoran, Knocktown, Lacken, Lannagh, Longridge, Lough, Mountcross, Muchtown, Newhouse, Newtown, Newtown Big, Newtown Little, Nicharee, Oldhall, Park, Part of Lannagh (ED Kilmore), Pembrokestown, Pullingtown, Ralphtown, Rath, Rathangan, Rathyark, Reahouse, Redmoor, Richfield, Richfield (Reclaimed), Riesk, Riverstown, Robinstown, Russelstown, Scotsland, Seafield, Shanoo, Sheephouse, Yoletown.

The maps and townland lists should be viewed on the Government of Ireland's website at (<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/507ce-prospecting-licence-notices/>). Where possible, they will be made available at **Wexford Garda Station (Mulgannon) and Kilmore Quay Garda Station, Wexford County Council; the Geological Survey Ireland**, Booterstown Hall, Booterstown, Co Dublin, A94 N2R6 and the address below.

Submissions to the granting of the licence should be made within **30 days** of the date of this Notice. Submissions can only be made by either posting them to the Geoscience Regulation Office at the address below or by using the **online submissions form** www.gov.ie/gsroSubmissions. The Minister reserves the right to make details of the submissions available to the applicant to fully consider their validity.

NB: A Prospecting Licence entitles the holder to explore for mineral deposits and **does not authorise mining of any minerals**. The activities permissible under a licence are, in general, non-invasive and of minimal environmental impact. The Minister has assessed the exploration programme proposed by the Company and has determined that the activities are not likely to have a significant effect on the environment. Further information, statutory notice and Minister's determination are available to view at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/507ce-prospecting-licence-notices/>

Geoscience Regulation Office
Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications,
29-31 Adelaide Road,
Dublin, D02 X285

Ref: M. A. 345/2

Date: 4th October 2023

EU General Data Protection Regulation (EU GDPR)

Department responsibilities: The Department welcomes submissions and petitions from the public. In responding to the consultation, respondents consent to their name being publicly available with their submission. The Department will redact personal addresses and personal email addresses prior to publication. We would draw your attention to the Department's Privacy Statement:

'The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications requires responders to provide certain personal data in order to provide services and carry out the functions of the Department. Your personal data may be exchanged with other Government Departments and Agencies in certain circumstances, where lawful. Full details can be found in our Data Privacy Notice which is available on the Government of Ireland website (<https://www.gov.ie/en/organisation-information/dfd02-data-protection/>) or in hard copy on request'.

Petitioner's responsibilities: Each Petition Organiser is a Data Controller and they should be aware of their responsibilities; that details provided by petition signatories when signing the petition (for example names, addresses, email addresses, telephone numbers and so on) are categorised as 'personal data' which is subject to GDPR (EU Regulation 2016/679 'General Data Protection Regulation 2018').

Petition Organisers as Data Controllers are required to confirm in their submission that:

a) All individuals whose personal data is provided in the Petition have consented to the processing of their personal data by the Petition Organiser and the Department (as outlined in our Privacy Statement above),

OR

b) That you otherwise have a legal basis (please specify) for providing such personal data to the Department for the purposes of participation in this consultation.

Decision on specific prospecting activities

The Minister has assessed the exploration project proposed by the company and has determined that the activities are not likely to have a significant effect on the environment and proposes to grant the following Prospecting Licences.

PL Area	3237 and 3484
Company	Earth Source Ltd
Activity	Mineral exploration involving desk studies, prospecting, and geological mapping
Environmental Considerations	Desk studies, prospecting, and geological mapping are temporary, non-intrusive activities, involving minimal disturbance and have a limited zone of influence. These activities are not likely to have a significant effect on the environment. If a proposed activity is at or in the vicinity of a Natura 2000 site, the activity will be subject to a separate screening assessment.
European Sites Determination	<p>Ballyteigue Burrow SPA 004020 Tacumshin Lake SPA 004092 Saltee Islands SPA 004002 Keeragh Islands SPA 004118 Ballyteigue Burrow SAC 000696 Saltee Islands SAC 000707</p> <p>A screening determination has been carried out for the project. Particular attention has been paid to the European Sites listed above.</p> <p>It has been determined that the project does not have the potential for significant effects on any European Site and the activities are not likely to have a significant effect on the Natural Heritage Area (NHA) or proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHA) listed below.</p> <p>Keeragh Islands NHA 000703 Ballyteigue Burrow pNHA 000696</p>
Environmental Information available on DECC website	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exploration Drilling - Guidance on Discharge to Surface and Groundwater (2019) 2. Guidance for Good Environmental Practice in Mineral Exploration (2019) 3. Environmental Safeguards- The Irish Way (2006) 4. Expert Environmental Guidance (2017)
Authority	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
Date	29/08/2023