



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.

PL Area	1362, Co. Galway
Company	Minco Ireland Ltd
Activity	Drilling of one hole in the southern portion of PLA 1362
Environmental Considerations	The duration of drilling will be approximately 7 weeks. The hole is located at least 89m from the nearest Natura 2000 Site (Lough Corrib SAC), approximately 1.8km from the nearest Natural Heritage Area (Slieve Bog) and approximately 1.8km from the nearest proposed Natural Heritage Area (Boyounagh Turlough). The company is using potable water for drilling purposes. All drilling water will be re-circulated. Any drilling additives or greases used will be non-hazardous, non-toxic and biodegradable. The drilling is not likely to have a significant effect on the environment.
European Sites	Lough Corrib SAC (000297) Lough Lurgreen Bog/Glenamaddy Turlough SAC (000301) Williamstown Turloughs SAC (002296) Lisnageeragh Bog and Ballinastack Turlough SAC (000296) Lough Lurgreen Bog/Glenamaddy Turlough SAC (000301) A screening determination has been carried out for the project. Particular attention has been paid to the European Site listed above. It has been determined that the project does not have the potential for significant effects on a European Site on the basis that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The activity is temporary •There will be no direct discharge of drilling fluids into surface water systems. •The drilling activity is at least 89m from the nearest European Site.
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 R4 – Drilling (2017)
Authority	Department of the Environment, Climate & Communications
Date of Notice	27 February 2024