

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, Gold (Ores of) and Silver (Ores of)** to **Minco Ireland Ltd, Coolfore Road, Ardbracken, Navan, Meath, C15 KXY3, Ireland** over the following Townlands in **Co Laois**:

CLARMALLAGH BARONY

ADDERGOOLE, AGHMACART, AHARNEY, ARCHERSTOWN, BALLINFRASE, BALLYBOODIN, BALLYDAVIN, BALLYGAUGE BEG, BALLYKEALY, BALLYNAFUNSHIN, BALLYNEVIN, BARRACKQUARTER or ROSS, BRACCAS, BUNLACKEN, CAPPONELLAN, CASTLEDURROW DEMESNE, CASTLEQUARTER, CASTLEVIEW, CASTLEWOOD, CLONAGEERA, CLORHAUN, COOLNABEHY, COURSE, CULLAHILL MOUNTAIN, DERREEN and CARROWREAGH, DURROW TOWNPARKS, FERMOYLE, GALESQUARTER, GLEBE, GORTEEN, GORTEENAHILLA, GRAIGUEAGARRAN, GRAIGUEAVOICE, GRENAN, GURRAUN, KNOCKANORAN, KNOCKNAGRALLY or KILLENNY BEG, LOUGHNAMUCK, MAYNEBOG, MOYNE, NEWTOWN, OLDTOWN, PARKNAHOWN, PART OF GLEBE (ED Durrow), RAHEENDUFF, RAHEENLEAGH, RAPLA, ROSSCONNELL GLEBE, SCRUB and GLENMACOLLA, SHANBALL, SPAQUARTER, TINWEAR, TOBERBOE or KILLENNY MORE.

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 Abbeyleix (24/7) and Durrow Garda Stations; Laois 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/gsproSubmissions. The Minister reserves the right to make details of the submissions available to the applicant in order to fully consider their validity.

Please note: A Prospecting Licence entitles the holder to explore for mineral deposits only and **does not authorise mining of any minerals**. The prospecting 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 the 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. 56/17

Date: 19th March 2024

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. They should be aware of their responsibilities; those 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 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.

Company Minco Ireland Ltd

PLA 3312, 4042 and 4043

Activity

Mineral exploration involving desk studies, re-logging, and drilling.

Environmental Considerations

Desk studies, re-logging 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.

If diamond drilling is undertaken, this activity will be subject to an individual screening assessment.

European Sites Determination

A screening determination has been carried out for the project. Particular attention has been paid to the European Sites listed below:

- River Nore SPA (Site Code 004233)
- Galmoy Fen SAC (Site Code 001858)
- River Barrow And River Nore SAC (Site Code 002162)
- Lisbigney Bog SAC (Site Code 000869)
- Cullahill Mountain SAC (Site Code 000831)

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.

- Galmoy Fen pNHA (Site Code 001858)
- Coolacurragh Wood pNHA (Site Code 000862)
- Lisbigney Bog pNHA (Site Code 000869)
- Grantstown Wood And Lough pNHA (Site Code 000417)
- River Nore / Abbeyleix Woods Complex pNHA (Site Code 002076)
- The Curragh And Goul River Marsh pNHA (Site Code 000420)
- Cullahill Mountain pNHA (Site Code 00831)

Environmental Information is available on [the gov.ie website](#)

1. [Guidelines for Completion of Environmental Screening Forms for Mineral Exploration Activities 2023](#)
2. [Exploration Drilling - Guidance on Discharge to Surface and Groundwater \(2019\)](#)

3. [Guidance for Good Environmental Practice in Mineral Exploration \(2019\)](#)
4. [Environmental Safeguards- The Irish Way \(2006\)](#)
5. [Expert Environmental Guidance for Exploration Methodologies \(2017\)](#)

Authority: **Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications**

Date: 5 January 2024