

Notice of Intention to Renew a Prospecting Licence

Pursuant to section 8(6) of the Minerals Development Act 1940, as inserted by section 2 of the Minerals Development Act 1995, the **Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications** intends to renew the prospecting licence for **Base Metals, Barytes and Silver (Ores of.)** to **Boliden Tara Mines Ltd, Knockumber, Navan, Co. Meath, C15 NH63, Ireland** over the following Townlands in **County Meath**:

NAVAN LOWER BARONY

ARDBRACCAN, GRANGE (PART), LISCARTAN, SCALLANSTOWN, TANKARDSTOWN.

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 Trim and Navan Garda Stations 24/7; Meath County Council; the Geological Survey Ireland, Booterstown Hall, Booterstown, Co Dublin, A94 N2R6 and the address below.

Submissions to the renewal 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 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. 51/1

Date: 17th April 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.

Determination

In accordance with **Regulation 42(1) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011, S.I. No. 477 of 2011**, the Minister has undertaken an Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening of the proposed exploration activities.

The screening assessed, in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of the site, if the project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects was likely to have a significant effect on a European Site. In this context, particular attention was paid to the European Sites listed below.

The Minister has determined after a Stage 1 AA screening that the project:

- Is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of those European Sites and
- On the basis of objective scientific information, that the project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, **will not have a significant effect on a European site.**

Accordingly, a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required.

It has been determined that the project does not have the potential for significant effects on a European Site on the basis that:

- Geological mapping, geochemical sampling, and geophysical surveying are temporary, non-intrusive activities, involving minimal disturbance and with a limited zone of influence,
- The specified activities will be outside the boundaries of the listed European sites,
- If the company plans to carry out any activity within or immediately adjacent to a European Site, the activity will be the subject to a separate Appropriate Assessment determination,
- Any drilling will be subject to a separate screening for AA determination.

European Sites **River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA** (Site Code 004232)
River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC (Site Code 002299)

Authorising Officer Paul Mc Dermott

Date 31 January 2024

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 Boliden Tara Mines Ltd

PLA 1496

Activity

Mineral exploration consisting of geological mapping, geochemical sampling, geophysical surveying, and drilling.

Environmental Considerations

Geological mapping, geochemical sampling, and geophysical surveying are temporary, non-intrusive activities, involving minimal disturbance and with a limited zone of influence. The activity is not likely to have a significant effect on the environment.

If the activity is undertaken 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 a separate 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. It has been determined that the project does not have the potential for significant effects on any European Site.

1. River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA (Site Code 004232)
2. River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC (Site Code 002299)

In addition, the activities are not likely to have a significant effect on the Natural Heritage Area (NHA) or proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHA) listed below:

1. Jamestown Bog NHA (Site Code 1324)

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: 31 January 2024