



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	4502, Co. Meath
Company	Boliden Tara Mines DAC
Activity	Drilling of one hole in the western portion of PLA 4502
Environmental Considerations	The duration of drilling will be approximately 12 weeks. The hole is located approximately 4.1km from the nearest Natura 2000 Site (River Boyne And River Blackwater SAC), approximately 4.4km from the nearest Natural Heritage Area (Jamestown Bog) and approximately 8km from the nearest proposed Natural Heritage Area (Trim). The company is using small volumes of surface 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	<p>River Boyne And River Blackwater SAC (002299) River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA (004232)</p> <p>A screening determination has been carried out for the project. Particular attention has been paid to the European Site listed above.</p> <p>It has been determined that the project does not have the potential for significant effects on a European Site on the basis that:</p> <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 occurring approximately 4.1km 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	24 April 2024