

Advisory Group

14 November 2022 Microsoft Teams 09:30-13:00

Meeting Notes

Present:	Department of the Environment Farming and Rural Affairs (Defra), DAERA NI, Chartered Institute for Water Management (CIWM), UK Best Available Techniques (UK BAT), British Metals Recycling Association, Dacorum, Energy Research Partnership, Environmental Services Association (ESA UK), Bangor University, Charter Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH), Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), National Farmers Union, Renewable Energy Association (R-E-A), Environment Agency, University of Central London (UCL), The Climate Change Committee, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS), Scottish Government, Transforming Foundation Industries, ClientEarth, UK BAT, TransFIRE, Federation of Small Businesses, UK Petroleum Industry Association, Cranfield University, Chemical Industries Association, Welsh Government, Green Alliance, Climate Emergency Response Group, TransFIRE, University of Leeds, Hanson UK, The Aldersgate Group, Environment Agency
Apologies:	NRW
Agenda:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. House Keeping 2. Introductions 3. History of the creation and use of UK BAT within Europe and the UK 4. BAT for the UK – The Process 5. UK BAT Implementation 6. Advisory Group in Practice 7. Chair's Closing Remarks

1. House Keeping Chair: Defra

The Chair welcomed everyone to the group. Everyone introduced themselves.

2. Introduction

The aims and objectives of the UK BAT Advisory Group and Terms of Reference were outlined.

Key Points:

- Advisory Group meetings are a place for discussion and observation to help steer the direction and development of the BAT system in the UK.
- It was introduced under the Common Framework agreement on

Industrial Emissions

- The meeting was set out as a commitment to the government's response to the Consultation which was published at the end of August 2022.
- There will be technical engagement on individual sector reviews through Technical Working Groups.
- The Advisory Group is the strategic oversight of the BAT system and will look at the forward planning and development.
- Meetings will be inclusive and held approximately once every six months.

Concern was raised that some NGO's are unable to attend Advisory Group Meetings due to time constraints. The Chair was asked if there was separate group on circular economy.

Action: All. Email UK BAT team (UKBAT@defra.gov.uk) with recommendations for membership and any comments on the Terms of Reference.

Action: UK BAT Team. Circulate presentations post meeting and grant all members access to UK BATIS by 8/11/2022

3. History of the creation and use of Best Available Techniques within Europe and the UK

A presentation and summary were given on what has been happening in the EU and UK (in terms of BAT development) for the last 25 years.

4. BAT for the UK – the process

A presentation was given describing the organization and governance of the UK BAT regime. The proposed UK BAT process for delivery of new environmental standards was summarised.

A suggestion was made to identify a more diverse group of stakeholders and invite them to join the Advisory Group. It was explained that the UK BAT team had contacted a wide range of stakeholders and NGO groups prior to the meeting.

Questions were raised regarding when the appropriate time would be to review the process. It was agreed that this would be added to the meeting agenda in the future as appropriate/required.

The Advisory Group asked if there was an aim to maintain alignment with the EU in our UK BATC. The Chair explained that the transition period between the UK and Europe is now closed, and that any European BATC published now has no legal standing in the UK. It was agreed that there would be a worldwide look at BAT.

The chair highlighted the differences between Tranche 1 and Tranche 2, and the 12 Step process to publication. Membership of the Technical Working Groups (TWG) and the reporting mechanisms to the Standards

Council were explained.

Questions were raised regarding how often BAT Reference (BREFS) are required to be reviewed and if there was a timeline to review the existing BREFS. It was confirmed that sectors had been clearly identified for Tranche 1 & 2, but not past that. It was agreed that this would be added to a future meeting agenda.

The Advisory Group asked if more could be done with regards to Net Zero and Circular Economy in the consultation. It was confirmed that this would be addressed at the start of the BAT process; to try and eliminate waste, pollution etc. Circular Economy would also be taken into consideration.

Action: UK BAT team to increase NGO representation for the next meeting

5. UK BAT Implementation

A presentation was given on the implementation of the new BAT standards in the UK.

Questions were raised about the parliamentary process. Defra colleagues gave a brief explanation with regards to the Statutory Instrument (SI) process.

A member of the group enquired about wood-based panels and waste incineration for large combustion plants and BAT. The timeline was explained for these sectors.

Questions were asked about the application of different standards across the UK. A short discussion took place around how small changes or tweaks could be made instead of developing a completely different SI. The main aim of the Technical Working Groups was to try and get consensus across the UK and agree a common framework with industry.

A member of the group asked whether the process for derogations would stay the same or whether it would be reviewed. It was explained that regular conversations had taken place with colleagues and the Devolved Administrations. The group agreed that it would be better to have fewer derogations.

6. Advisory Group in practice

The practical aspects of running the Advisory Group were described. The plan was to host meetings either online or face to face twice a year, with the potential to set up subgroup meetings on specific topics. Notes from the meetings would be published on www.gov.uk. The IT system - UK BAT Information System (UK BATIS) was described and explained. Members of the Advisory Group would be able to view information (such as meeting notes and relevant papers) in the Advisory Group section. Access however

was restricted, and would not open to general members of the public.

7. Chair's closing remarks

It was explained that the next AG meeting would take place in late spring. Separate sub meetings may be organised if required. A discussion forum on UK BATIS could be used by the group as a mechanism for asking questions or highlighting any areas of concern.

Concerns were raised over the Regulation 61 process and resourcing. There was awareness of the challenge, and it was agreed that this topic was not for this forum, however this could be readdressed and considered in future years.

It was highlighted that Northern Ireland has policy officials fully engaged in the process and are represented on various government groups. The group was invited to contact NI colleagues for more information by email if required.

Action: UK BAT team to circulate a link to an electronic survey to the group requesting feedback for the meeting and to consider the setup of a subgroup looking at Circular Economy and Decarbonisation

Transfire have a workstream looking at minimum material and energy use in industry and were looking at setting up a platform for knowledge exchange.

Action: All to contact Defra with any questions relating to policy via Email: UKBAT@defra.gov.uk

Action: All to contact Email: UKBAT@defra.gov.uk if interested or involved with Soundscape and Noise. Noise is one of the key issues in the BATC across all sectors. Opinions were requested from across all the Devolved Administrations. A separate meeting could be arranged if required.

Questions were asked on how heat generation would be integrated into BAT documents. A short discussion took place. Further questions were asked about industrial symbiosis (the use of waste and by products).

The group enquired about fees and charges for permits.

Action: Dacorum to contact Defra if the policy is specific to England, or contact colleagues in the other Devolved Administrations, as required.