

ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITTING: AN OVERVIEW

Michael J. Sant

Unit Manager (Environmental Permitting & Industry)

1. Industry: environmental concerns

- Waste management
- Emissions to atmosphere
- Discharge of effluent
- Noise
- Visual impact
- Environmental accidents
- Transport and Traffic
- Energy use
- Use of water and other raw materials
- Use and disposal of Products
- Construction phase
- Site closure and aftercare/remediation

These issues may be site specific and/or operational in nature, and are regulated via different regulatory instruments and agencies.

2. Regulatory tools applied during the lifespan of an enterprise

- Land use planning and development permit
 - Appropriate location/design
- EIA: allows informed decision on environmental impacts
- Seveso Directive: provisions on Major Hazards
- Development Permits
 - Controls design & visual impact, traffic, closure
- Environmental Permits
 - Control of ongoing issues at enterprises, closure
 - Control of once-off events, import/export of materials

3. Existing environmental legislation

- Environmental permitting and compliance are empowered by the Environmental Protection Act and subsidiary legislation:
 - IPPC regulations defining and regulating IPPC installations e.g. power stations, high risk waste management activities, industrial activities, farms, etc.
 - Waste management regulations defining waste management permits and registration systems
 - Additional permitting regulations on specific issues and/or sectors e.g. VOCs, marine discharges, petrol stations & fuel terminals, various chemicals etc.
- Additional permitting required for the implementation of including Waste, Air Quality and Water Framework Directives – as will be clearly referenced in implementation plans required by Directives