

The Future of BPEO

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The BPEO

‘ The outcome of a systematic, consultative and decision-making procedure which emphasises the protection and conservation of the environment across land, air and water. The BPEO procedure establishes, for a given set of objectives, the option that provides the most benefits of the least damage to the environment as a whole, at acceptable cost, in the long-term as well as the short term.’

Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution 12th Report 1988

PPG10:

‘..... waste management decisions based on the following principles:

- Consideration of Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO) for each waste stream;
- Regional self sufficiency;
- The proximity principle; and
- Waste hierarchy.’

Waste Strategy 2000

‘The Government.....look to Waste Planning Authorities to :

- Take account of.....the importance of establishing BPEO.....
- Promote informal debate.....in their area about.....options available to produce the Best Practicable Environmental Option’.

‘The process that should be used for considering the relative merits of various waste management options....’

‘.....the BPEO for a waste stream is likely to be a mix of different waste management methods’

Interpretation

Originally considered a policy tool – methodology to evaluate whole waste streams

Judiciary has taken different perspective – applied to individual cases e.g. Glapwell Colliery

Confusion:-

- How should it be applied e.g. methodology
- What geographical scale
- Data
- Objector charter – easy to criticise / difficult to defend
- Expense

Queries

Does BPEO analysis add value?

Where does it sit with other 'appraisal' processes?

Is the 'Best' the enemy of the 'Good'?

Why applied to 'waste' decision making?

Does the 'new' planning process make BPEO redundant?

Options for BPEO in Waste Planning

Redefine BPEO

- Clear Guidance e.g. Glapwell;
- Restricted to regional / strategic policy options; or
- Evaluation of technology e.g. PPC tool.

Remove BPEO

- Other appraisal processes;
- New 'planning process' supersedes the need;
- In equitable.