

CHAPTER 8

Recommendations

8.1 Environmental recommendations

The recommendations in this section arise from the findings of the work that was carried out to examine the chemical characteristics of each of the mine sites and their impact on human and animal health and the environment.

Recommendation 1

The Local Authorities should be advised of all issues of environmental concern falling within their functional area. Other authorities such as the HSE, the HSA and Teagasc may also need to be informed of specific relevant issues.

Recommendation 2

Sites assigned to Class I should have a full environmental risk assessment carried out, if not already undertaken. Ongoing monitoring should be carried out at these sites.

Recommendation 3

The site assigned to Class II should have general monitoring of most or all waste piles, discharges or stream sediments carried out on an annual basis.

Recommendation 4

Sites assigned to Class III should have specific monitoring on particular waste piles, discharges or stream sediments on a biennial basis.

Recommendation 5

Sites assigned to Class IV should have specific monitoring on particular waste piles, discharges or stream sediments on a five-yearly basis.

Recommendation 6

Sites assigned to Class V generally do not require any specific monitoring.

Recommendation 7

In order to comply fully with the Directive an inventory of closed aggregate and stone operations (quarries and pits) should be carried out.

Recommendation 8

A scientific-based scheme of monitoring should be developed appropriate to each of the site classes incorporating relevant expertise from the EPA and the GSI.