



## **MINING WASTE DIRECTIVE**

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# MINING WASTE DIRECTIVE

- Dir 2006/21/EC - on the management of waste from extractive industries
- Requirement to transpose into domestic legislation by 1 May 2008
- Work being undertaken by Planning Service Legislation Team

# Why?

- Baia Mare and Baia Borsa accidents caused extensive environmental damage.
- Report of the International Task Force for assessing the Baia Mare accident 2000 – “to assess what measures are recommended to minimise the risk of similar accidents”.
- MWD is intended “to **prevent or minimise any adverse effects on the environment and resultant risks to health...**”

# Detail of Accidents

- Evening of 30 January 2000, a tailings pond burst at a facility near the city of Baia Mare, Romania which was reprocessing old mining tailings and re-depositing the waste sludge into a new tailings pond.

Approximately 100,000 m<sup>3</sup> of waste water containing up to 120 tonnes of cyanide and heavy metal released into the Lapus River, travelled downstream into the Somes and Tisa rivers into Hungary before entering the Danube.

- On 10 March 2000, another tailings dam burst in Baia Borsa in the same region close to the Ukrainian border. While some of this material was retained within the dam complex, 20,000 tonnes of sediments were released into the Novat River, a tributary of the Viseu and Tisa rivers.

# Danube River Basin and accident sites



# Main Obligations

- General requirement to manage onshore extractive waste without endangering the environment or human health.
- Specific requirements in relation to site management and waste facilities including:-
  - Waste management plans
  - Processes for prevention and control of major accidents/hazards
  - Liability of operators
  - Staff competency
  - Permits issued by competent authority
  - Monitoring and reporting
- Focus on facilities handling hazardous waste.

# Way Ahead

- Northern Ireland, like Scotland, will transpose the directive via the planning route.
- Engagement with QPANI.
- Compliance in advance of domestic regulations.
- Will maintain ongoing contact with key stakeholders.
- Future consultation exercise on draft legislation.



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