

Revisions to EIA directive must be reconsidered

Written by Darren

Wednesday, 20 February 2013 11:24 - Last Updated Wednesday, 20 February 2013 11:25



The Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management urges Government to reconsider revisions to Directive 2011/92/EU on Environmental Impact Assessments that could exclude large numbers of chartered environmental professionals from important accreditation role.

In response to revisions made to Directive 2011/92/EU on Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA), the Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM) has urged the Government not to restrict professionals working in this field and to determine that the experts should be 'Chartered Members of an appropriate environmental professional body.'

In a letter to The Right Honourable Eric Pickles MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, and copied to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, CIWEM Executive Director, Nick Reeves OBE, stressed the implications that proposed revisions to the directive carry for a large number of environmental professionals.

"Whilst CIWEM, a chartered professional body, advocates that all projects should utilise professionals with the technical competence to undertake their work, we are concerned that this article may open a divisive and unnecessarily competitive situation amongst some professional bodies to become the single body empowered or licensed to accredit suitable experts and therefore exclude those who are eminently qualified."

"What is being proposed will be to the detriment of a number of professional bodies and chartered environmental professionals who are technically competent and qualified but may not be members of the 'preferred' or a specific professional body."

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Reeves said that there should be an openness which avoids any single organisation monopolising the accreditation role and which is open to all chartered environmental professionals regardless of which body they belong to.

CIWEM has organised a major conference 'EIA – Putting it into Context and Making it fit for Purpose' on the revisions to the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, which will take place in London on 20th February 2013.