



CASE STUDIES



This case is about land use planning procedures encompassing all stages of the mining value chain

SCALE

National, using examples from the Galmoy, Lisheen and Tara mines

TYPE OF MINING

Underground mining

MINERAL RESOURCES

Lead and zinc



Mineral Planning for Lead and Zinc in Ireland

Life-cycle of three lead and zinc mines, at different stages, from exploration to rehabilitation

The integration of mineral interests in spatial planning in Ireland is relatively light, but given the current level of mining activity, it appears sufficient as it does not prevent mining or other activities from taking place. The planning framework is a policy-lead statement which currently suffices. For exploration, a licence must be obtained from the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment. Only licence holders can apply to develop a mine. For mining, 3 permits are required:

- Mining Licence
- Planning permission
- Integrated Pollution Prevention Control License (IPPC)

Each is delivered by a different authority to allow for proper considerations of all aspects and possible impacts of the mining activities. Closure, Restoration and Aftercare Management Plans (CRAMP) are prepared as part of the IPPC licence process and updated annually. They allow for consideration of the options for the mine site upon closure of the mine. CRAMP are reviewed every year and with the interested parties, including the planning authorities. They map the closure of a mine site and include solutions for affected communities and redundant employees. Transparency with the public is key for mining companies which have an open-door policy with local communities and share as much information as possible. To communicate, companies use a variety of means, including local radio and newspapers. Public consultation is an integral part of the Irish planning system, which allows for local concerns to be heard and addressed from forward planning to development management.



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