



**Screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment Determination**

under the

European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes)  
Regulations 2004 (as amended)

for the

**emerging Draft Policy Statement on Geothermal Energy Exploration**

In order to comply with the requirements of Article 9 of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations S.I. No. 435/2004, as amended, this determination has been made by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications relating to whether the emerging Draft Policy Statement on Geothermal Energy Exploration would be likely to have significant effects on the environment.

This determination takes into account relevant criteria set out in Schedule 1 'Criteria for determining whether a plan or programme (or modification thereto) is likely to have significant effects on the environment' of the aforementioned Regulations. These criteria are considered in a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report for the emerging Draft Policy Statement that has been prepared to inform this determination.

The SEA Screening Report concludes that: *Potential issues have been identified that indicate that implementation of the draft Policy Statement on Geothermal Energy in Ireland could give rise to both positive and negative effects on the environment. Where negative effects have been identified, it can be concluded that unless appropriate protections are in place geothermal exploration is likely to result in significant environmental effects.*

The undersigned, having carefully considered the information referred to above agrees with and adopts the reasoning and conclusion presented above and in the "SEA Screening Report". The undersigned, having carefully considered the information referred to above agrees with and adopts the reasoning and conclusion presented above. The undersigned hereby determines pursuant to Article 9 of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004, as amended, that SEA is required for the emerging Draft Policy Statement on Geothermal Energy Exploration.

**Signatory:**

Eóin Deegan  
Principal Officer  
Geoscience Policy Division

**Date:** 15 October, 2021