The Department of the Environment, being a department designated for the purposes of section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972 in relation to the environment, in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by that section, makes the following Regulations.

Citation, commencement and interpretation

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Groundwater (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011 and shall come into operation on 25th June 2011.

(2) The Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954 applies to these Regulations as it applies to an Act of the Assembly.

Amendment of the Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009

2.—(1) The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 are amended in accordance with paragraph (2).

(2) In regulation 16 (discharges that may be authorised) after sub-paragraph (h) insert—

“(i) the injection of carbon dioxide streams for storage purposes into geological formations which for natural reasons are permanently unsuitable for other purposes, provided that such injection is made in accordance with Directive 2009/31/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on the geological storage of carbon dioxide or excluded from the scope of that Directive pursuant to its Article 2(2).”

(1) S.I. 2008/ 301.
(2) 1972 c.68.
(3) 1954 c. 33 (N.I.).
(4) S.R. 2009 No. 254 to which there are amendments not relevant to these Regulations.
Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of the Environment on 3rd June 2011

Denis McMahon
A senior officer of the Department of the Environment
EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations amend regulation 16 of the Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 to allow the storage of carbon dioxide in geological formations which for natural reasons are permanently unsuitable for other purposes.