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16 February 2009

Dear Consultee,

**Environmental Permitting Programme: Consultation on draft regulations to extend the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 to incorporate the permitting and compliance aspects of Discharge Consenting, Groundwater Authorisation and Radioactive Substances Regulation**

Defra, DECC<sup>1</sup>, the Environment Agency and the Welsh Assembly Government are today launching a joint consultation proposing to extend the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 to incorporate the permitting and compliance aspects of Discharge Consenting, Groundwater Authorisation and Radioactive Substances Regulation. This letter invites your views on the proposals.

The following documents can be found on Defra's website<sup>2</sup> and the Environment Agency's website<sup>3</sup>:

- o Consultation document
- o Draft Regulations
- o Impact Assessment
- o List of consulted organisations

We welcome your views and comments on the proposals. If you wish to obtain a paper copy of the consultation, please contact the Environmental Permitting Programme team by email: [eppadministrator@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:eppadministrator@defra.gsi.gov.uk); by post: Environmental Permitting Programme, Defra, Area 5B Ergon House, 17 Smith Square, SW1P 3JR; or telephone Maria Moynihan on 020 7238 5097.

**How to respond**

Please send your response to the relevant addresses below – preferably by email. Responses should be received by **11 May 2009**.

**England**

By email: [eppadministrator@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:eppadministrator@defra.gsi.gov.uk), or

By post: Defra, Environmental Permitting Consultation, Area 5B Ergon House, Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AL

Enquiries: Maria Moynihan: 020 7238 5097

<sup>1</sup> Department of Energy and Climate Change

<sup>2</sup> [www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/env-permitting/index.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/env-permitting/index.htm)

<sup>3</sup> [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/library/consultations/36989.aspx](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/library/consultations/36989.aspx)

## **Wales**

By email: [rppmailbox@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:rppmailbox@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

By post: EPP Consultations, Radioactivity and Pollution Prevention Branch,  
Welsh Assembly Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF10 3NG

Enquiries: Russell Lang: 029 2082 1588

### **Consultation Criteria**

This consultation is in line with the Code of practice on Consultations. This can be found on <http://bre.berr.gov.uk/regulation/consultation/>

In line with Defra's policy of openness, at the end of the consultation period copies of the responses we receive will be made publicly available through the Defra Information Resource Centre, Lower Ground Floor, Ergon House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR. The information they contain will also be published in a summary of responses.

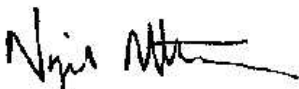
If you do not consent to this, you must clearly request that your response be treated confidentially. Any confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system in e-mail responses will not be treated as such a request. You should also be aware that there may be circumstances in which Defra will be required to communicate information to third parties on request, in order to comply with its obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations.

The library will supply copies of consultation responses to personal callers or in response to telephone or e-mail requests (tel: 020 7238 6575, email: [defra.library@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:defra.library@defra.gsi.gov.uk)). Wherever possible, personal callers should give the library at least 24 hours notice of their requirements. An administrative charge will be made to cover photocopying and postage costs.

If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, as opposed to the content in the consultation paper, please address them to Marjorie Addo, Defra's Consultation Co-ordinator, Area 7C Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR, or email [consultation.coordinator@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:consultation.coordinator@defra.gsi.gov.uk).

Thank you for your help in this matter. If you have any queries, please contact us as above.

Yours faithfully,



Nigel Atkinson

**Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**