

Environmental Permitting (radioactive substance regulation)

Charges for 2011/12

The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010

From April 2010, radioactive substances regulation came under the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2010. All related charges for 2011/12 form part of the Environmental Permitting Charging Scheme 2011/12. The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs must approve the proposed charging schemes and requires us to:

- secure sufficient funding for us to regulate environmental permits effectively
- recover our regulatory costs from the applicants for and holders of environmental permits.

We regulate the environmental impact of radioactive substances through Environmental Permitting. This system of chargeable permits ensures the protection and improvement of the environment in England and Wales.

Where our money comes from

In 2011/12, we expect to spend around £1.3billion on the whole range of our activities. Government will contribute around 65% of this through grants and the rest must be raised mainly through charging for environmental permits and flood risk management work. The charges we set to recover the costs of radioactive substances regulation will raise £14million (1%). We do not use money raised from charges for these permits to pay for our other activities.

No baseline increase to charges

We are keeping the level of our charges the same as in 2010/11 in recognition of the difficult economic circumstances. With forecasts of inflation ranging from 3.7% to 4.8% we believe this will provide assistance to our charge-payers.

Technical changes

The only technical changes to this regime relate to our regulatory work on nuclear licensed sites:

- We have introduced a second (lower) charge rate of £125 per hour. This rate is to be used for technical work undertaken by those other than our key, front-line nuclear regulation staff.

- We will now recover our costs associated with Euratom monitoring and work in support of OSPARCOM reporting obligations.

For full details of our charges please access the EP Charging Scheme and Guidance.

Forward look

During 2011/12 we expect Government to issue regulations amending the EP Regulations 2010 to:

- Redefine "radioactive material" and "radioactive waste". This means that some substances containing radioactivity may no longer be within the scope of the legislation, whilst some may come within scope for the first time.
- To introduce a new exemption regime where, subject to compliance with specific conditions, an environmental permit is not required.

We don't yet know the details of the changes but we expect that some radioactive substances activities that were previously out of scope of the legislation or exempt will need permits. In such circumstances normal application charges will apply. We also expect that some radioactive substances activities, or elements of those activities, that previously required permitting will become out of scope or exempt. Under these circumstances we expect that any surrenders or variations will not be chargeable.

Consultation process on amendments to the scheme

We reviewed the previous Environmental Permitting charging scheme during 2010 and consulted customer groups and a range of individual charge payers on the suggested amendments, before seeking approval from the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. A summary of the consultation comments received and our responses can be downloaded from our web pages.

If you were not involved in the consultation and would like to be included in any future Environmental Permitting or other charging consultations, please contact Jeremy Risdon:

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Horizon House, Deanery Road,

Bristol. BS1 5AH.

Email: jeremy.risdon@environment-agency.gov.uk

Please provide your name, job title, organisation and full contact details as well as the schemes you are interested in.

Further information

If you require more information on our charges please contact us using the telephone number that appears on your invoice or have a look at the charges section of our website.

customer service line
08708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
0845 988 1188

www.environment-agency.gov.uk