

Environmental Permitting (discharge to surface waters and point source discharges to ground)

Charges for 2011/12 - Fact Sheet

The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010

From April 2010, the regulation of discharges to surface water and to groundwater from point source discharges 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 water discharges 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 environmental permits for discharges to surface waters and point source discharges to ground will raise £63 million (5.7%). 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.

New notice of transfer and surrender arrangements and forms

If you need to transfer your permit to someone else (e.g. if you sell your property), there are new arrangements in place to help you. Both you and the future permit holder must complete and return the new notice of transfer form to transfer your permit. If your permit is no longer required (e.g. if you have a sewage effluent discharge from a septic tank that has been connected to a public foul sewer,) you

must complete a new notice of surrender form. These new forms can be found at:

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/permitting/32318.aspx>

Unusual weather waivers

For permits relating to point source effluent discharges, we have made some changes to the way we assess compliance when unusual weather may have had an adverse impact on effluent treatment processes. More information can be found in the compliance section of the document '[How to comply with your Environmental Permit for Water Discharge and Groundwater Activity Permits](#)'.

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:

Post: Environment Agency, Finance Directorate

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