

Regulatory position statement

The use of treated blackwater on the London 2012 Olympic park

If you comply with the requirements below, we will allow the use of treated blackwater on the London 2012 Olympic park at Stratford, London for the purposes below without the need for an environmental permit.

Background

The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is responsible for building the new venues and infrastructure for the London 2012 Olympic games. As part of their sustainability plan, they have a number of sustainability objectives. One of these includes a commitment to reduce the overall use of potable water in new venues on the Olympic Park by 40%. This is principally being delivered through a proposal for the reuse of treated blackwater (sewage).

This is a joint venture between the ODA and Thames Water (TW). A blackwater treatment plant, is being built to extract raw sewage (blackwater) from the northern outfall sewer, an existing Thames Water sewer which serves large parts of North London. This plant is the equivalent of a combined sewage treatment works and drinking water treatment plant in a single unit. The treatment plant will be run as part of a Thames Water research project for 7 years and will be in place beyond the Olympics and into the legacy phase.

The plant will be operated and maintained by Thames Water. It will produce water of a near potable quality from sewage, producing somewhere in the region of 574 m³/day. The treatment process stages will be: pre-treatment (with a settlement tank); treatment (using a membrane bioreactor) and post treatment (GAC and chlorine).

It will supply water into a custom non-potable distribution system for use on the Olympic site for flushing toilets, irrigation of grounds, rainwater harvesting top-up, process cooling water for CCHP energy centre and sewer flushing. The treatment and use of treated effluent is a waste management operation and requires an environmental permit.

Our approach

We will not pursue an application for an environmental permit for the activity where:

- The sewage is treated in accordance with the Thames Water reclaimed water safety plan (ref TW RWSP OPC V5).

- Any deviation from or variation of the plan must only be made in consultation with the relevant Environment Agency contact for the Olympics park, the Health Protection Agency and your local environmental health department.
- The plan is reviewed and confirmed as still fit for purpose every six months.
- You meet the relevant objectives of the Waste Framework Directive;
 - '... ensuring that waste management is carried out without endangering human health, without harming the environment and in particular:
 - (i) without risk to water, air, soil, plants or animals;
 - (ii) without causing a nuisance through noise or odours; and
 - (iii) without adversely affecting the countryside or places of special interest.'

Enforcement

In not pursuing an application for a permit, we will not normally take enforcement action unless the activity has caused, or is likely to cause, pollution or harm to health. For a more detailed explanation of this enforcement position, please see our [Enforcement and Sanctions](#) statement. This can be found on the '[How we regulate you](#)' page in the Business & Industry section of our web site.

This regulatory position will be reviewed by December 2012.

MWRP RPS 113 Version:1
Issued: August 2011