



guardians of drinking water quality

DRINKING WATER INSPECTORATE

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5 March 2009

Information Letter 04/09

To: Board Level and Day to Day contacts of Water and Sewerage Companies and Water Companies in England and Wales

Dear Sir/Madam

Submission of raw water monitoring data to the Drinking Water Inspectorate.

Purpose

1. The purpose of this Information letter is to inform Water Companies of reporting arrangements for the submission of raw water sample results to the Drinking Water Inspectorate.

Background

2. Regulation 16A of the amended The Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2000 (England) & 2001 (Wales) requires that every water undertaker or combined licensee will identify abstraction points and undertake sampling to support its obligations under regulations 26 to 28.
3. Over recent months three water companies have voluntarily assisted the Inspectorate in a Pilot Trial of raw water data submissions. This group concluded that the use of existing (treated water) data collection protocols would minimise the impact on both the Inspectorate's and Companies' data handling systems.
4. Submitted data will be shared with the Environment Agency as appropriate in line with the principles of better regulation.

Format for submission of raw water data

5. Raw water data submissions adopt the existing 'Detail' and 'Data' table formats (Information Letter 6/2003).
6. Companies will be required to submit details of all Abstraction points annually in the details table format with Raw Water Sites being allocated a distinct site reference (prefix A...). In addition Companies will be required to provide one additional annual table - the 'Abstraction Supply data' - to relate raw water sources to treatment works.

7. Companies will be required to submit monthly data returns for raw water samples taken under regulation 16A. The File format specification for annual and monthly data tables is included at Annex A.
8. Submitted tables should be separate from treated water (Compliance) submissions, i.e. **separate** MS Excel (.xls) or Comma Separated Variable (.csv) 'Detail', and 'Abstraction Supply' tables for raw water data, plus a monthly raw water 'Data' table. This information should **not** be appended to those files of treated water data currently submitted.

Parameter codes

9. Annex B contains a consolidated Parameter List to include both treated water (Compliance) and raw water codes.
10. The Annex B parameter code list has been compiled from the raw water programmes of the three 'Pilot' companies, and will not therefore be exhaustive for all monitoring in all companies. Any enquiries regarding current entries in this list, or requests for additional parameter codes, should be sent to the Inspectorate's Data Unit 'Monthly Data' Mailbox dwimonthlydata@defra.gsi.gov.uk Requests for additional parameter codes required should reach the Inspectorate by 21st May 2009.

Frequency of monitoring

11. Subject to the minimum frequency for some surface waters specified in Regulation 16(5), the frequency of raw water monitoring will be determined by Companies' risk assessments as carried out in accordance with Regulation 27.

Frequency of data submission

12. These reporting arrangements will apply to raw water data collected in 2009. Raw water 'Details' and 'Abstraction supply' tables for 2009 should be sent to the Inspectorate by 21st June 2009.
13. A first submission for the raw water 'Data' file (containing data collect for January to March 2009) is also required by the 21st June 2009. Both April and May raw water data should be submitted by the 21st July 2009. Thereafter submissions will be monthly, to accompany normal treated water (Compliance) data submissions. i.e. submissions for June 2009 will be required no later than 21 August 2009.
14. Subsequent years' 'Details' and 'Abstraction Supply' tables should accompany the January Compliance data submission for that year.
15. Collection of 2008 raw water data will be a separate one-off exercise later in 2009.

Guidance on data submissions

16. The web version of information letter [IL 6/2003](#) (www.dwi.gov.uk) will be updated to reflect these changes. Future amendments to the Inspectorate's data requirements (including current parameter codes) will be included in a future guidance document, which will be placed on the

DWI Website (www.dwi.gov.uk) and updated as required. Companies will be informed when this guidance is published and any subsequent updates to it.

Enquiries

17. Any enquiries regarding this letter should be made to Andrew Taylor, DWI Water Quality Data Manager. 0207 270 3166; Email: andy.taylor@defra.gsi.gov.uk
18. Copies of this letter are being sent to Pamela Taylor, Chief Executive, Water UK; Richard Wood, Water Supply and Regulation Division, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; Olwen Minney, Water Management Team, Welsh Assembly Government; Colin McLaren, Drinking Water Quality Regulator for Scotland; Randal Scott, Drinking Water Inspectorate for Northern Ireland; Tony Smith and Chairs of the Regional Consumer Council for Water; Kevin Ridout, for Office of Water Services; Tony Warn, Environment Agency; Nigel Harrison, Food Standards Agency; and Frances Pollitt at the Health Protection Agency.
19. This letter is being sent electronically to Board Level and day to day contacts. Please acknowledge receipt by email to dwi.enquiries@defra.gsi.gov.uk. Hard copies are not being sent but the letter may be freely copied.

Yours faithfully



Dr Jim Foster
Deputy Chief Inspector (Science & Strategy)