



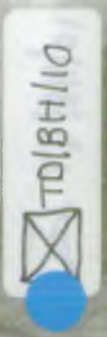
PROPOSED
SCHEME OF
CHARGES

IN RESPECT OF
DISCHARGES TO
CONTROLLED WATERS



NRA

National Rivers Authority



CHARGE MATRIX £

(CHARGEABLE UNITS ON PREVIOUS PAGE x £270)

Volume M ³ /d	Receiving Waters	Content						
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
> 150,000	Estuarial	85,050	28,350	17,010	11,340	5,670	2,835	1701
	Surface	56,700	18,900	11,340	7,560	3,780	1,890	1134
	Coastal	45,360	15,120	9,072	6,048	3,024	1,512	907
	Ground	28,350	9,450	5,670	3,780	1,890	945	567
> 50,000 to 150,000	Estuarial	54,675	18,225	10,935	7,290	3,645	1,823	1094
	Surface	36,450	12,150	7,290	4,860	2,430	1,215	729
	Coastal	29,160	9,720	5,832	3,888	1,944	972	583
	Ground	18,225	6,075	3,645	2,430	1,215	608	365
> 10,000 to 50,000	Estuarial	30,375	10,125	6,075	4,050	2,025	1,013	608
	Surface	20,250	6,750	4,050	2,700	1,350	675	405
	Coastal	16,200	5,400	3,240	2,160	1,080	540	324
	Ground	10,125	3,375	2,025	1,350	675	338	203
> 1,000 to 10,000	Estuarial	18,225	6,075	3,645	2,430	1,215	608	365
	Surface	12,150	4,050	2,430	1,620	810	405	243
	Coastal	9,720	3,240	1,944	1,296	648	324	194
	Ground	6,075	2,025	1,215	810	405	203	122
> 100 to 1,000	Estuarial	12,150	4,050	2,430	1,620	810	405	243
	Surface	8,100	2,700	1,620	1,080	540	270	162
	Coastal	6,480	2,160	1,296	864	432	216	130
	Ground	4,050	1,350	810	540	270	135	81
> 5 to 100	Estuarial	6,075	2,025	1,215	810	405	202	122
	Surface	4,050	1,350	810	540	270	135	81
	Coastal	3,240	1,080	648	432	216	108	65
	Ground	2,025	675	405	270	135	68	41
0 to 5	Estuarial	2,430	810	486	324	162	81	49
	Surface	1,620	540	324	216	108	54	32
	Coastal	1,296	432	259	172	86	43	26
	Ground	810	270	162	108	54	27	16

CALCULATION OF CHARGES

DETERMINATION OF WEIGHTING FACTORS

The steps by which the weighting factors have been assessed are as follows:

- (i) The overall costs have been allocated over the seven main areas of activity as stated in the earlier section on costs.
- (ii) A measure of activity has been identified that is appropriate to each main feature of a discharge (eg number of samples, analytical costs).
- (iii) All consents have been analysed into the appropriate bands.
- (iv) The information on:
 - *total activity costs*
 - *activity weightings*
 - *number of consents*has been combined to produce an overall weighting for each band.

METHOD OF CALCULATION

The the charge can be expressed as:

Charge	=	R (V x C x RW)
When R	=	Financial factor (Annual unit charge £)
V	=	Weighting factor based on consented discharge volume
C	=	Weighting factor based on consented contents of discharge
RW	=	Weighting factor based on category of receiving water

CHARGEABLE UNITS IN EACH PART OF MATRIX (V x C x RW)

Volume M ³ /d	Receiving Waters	Content						
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G
>150,000	Estuarial	315	105	63	42	21	10.5	6.3
	Surface	210	70	42	28	14	7	4.2
	Coastal	168	56	33.6	22.4	11.2	5.6	3.36
	Ground	105	35	21	14	7	3.5	2.1
> 50,000 to 150,000	Estuarial	202.5	67.5	40.5	27	13.5	6.75	4.05
	Surface	135	45	27	18	9	4.5	2.7
	Coastal	108	36	21.6	14.4	7.2	3.6	2.16
	Ground	67.5	22.5	13.5	9	4.5	2.25	1.35
> 10,000 to 50,000	Estuarial	112.5	37.5	22.5	15	7.5	3.75	2.25
	Surface	75	25	15	10	5	2.5	1.5
	Coastal	60	20	12	8	4	2	1.2
	Ground	37.5	12.5	7.5	5	2.5	1.25	0.75
>1,000 to 10,000	Estuarial	67.5	22.5	13.5	9	4.5	2.25	1.35
	Surface	45	15	9	6	3	1.5	0.9
	Coastal	36	12	7.2	4.8	2.4	1.2	0.72
	Ground	22.5	7.5	4.5	3	1.5	0.75	0.45
> 100 to 1,000	Estuarial	45	15	9	6	3	1.5	0.9
	Surface	30	10	6	4	2	1	0.6
	Coastal	24	8	4.8	3.2	1.6	0.8	0.48
	Ground	15	5	3	2	1	0.5	0.3
> 5 to 100	Estuarial	22.5	7.5	4.5	3	1.5	0.75	0.45
	Surface	15	5	3	2	1	0.5	0.3
	Coastal	12	4	2.4	1.6	0.8	0.4	0.24
	Ground	7.5	2.5	1.5	1	0.5	0.25	0.15
0 to 5	Estuarial	9	3	1.8	1.2	0.6	0.3	0.18
	Surface	6	2	1.2	0.8	0.4	0.2	0.12
	Coastal	4.8	1.6	0.96	0.64	0.32	0.16	0.10
	Ground	3	1	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.06

RECEIVING WATERS

Band Classification: The band shows the four broad categories of receiving water. Weighting factors are determined by taking account of the varied frequency of both discharge and related environmental monitoring with particular regard to analytical cost and complexity.

	Weighting Factor
Ground (including into and onto land)	0.5
Coastal (waters which extend seaward for 3 miles from the estuarial baseline)	0.8
Surface (inland watercourses, enclosed waters and rivers)	1.0
Estuarial (from estuarial baseline up to the freshwater limit)	1.5

WEIGHTING FACTORS SUMMARY

WEIGHTING FACTORS

CATEGORY	BAND	FACTOR
<i>Volume</i>	0 - 5	0.4
	> 5 - 100	1.0
	> 100 - 1,000	2.0
	> 1,000 - 10,000	3.0
	> 10,000 - 50,000	5.0
	> 50,000 - 150,000	9.0
	> 150,000	14.0
<i>Content</i>	A	15.0
	B	5.0
	C	3.0
	D	2.0
	E	1.0
	F	0.5
	G	0.3
<i>Receiving water</i>	Ground	0.5
	Coastal	0.8
	Surface	1.0
	Estuarial	1.5

VOLUME

General: Volume is a key consent parameter and generally reflects the scale of a discharge. It is an important factor in the determination of monitoring programmes. The majority of significant discharges have a condition specifying the consented discharge volume.

Band Classification: The following bands have been selected following analysis of the volume ranges of discharges and also reflect sampling frequency.

Band (Volume Range) (m ³ /day)	Weighting Factor
0 - 5	0.4
> 5 - 100	1.0
> 100 - 1, 000	2.0
> 1, 000 - 10, 000	3.0
> 10, 000 - 50, 000	5.0
> 50,000 - 150,000	9.0
> 150,000	14.0

The weighting factor for these bands broadly reflects that although costs do increase to reflect increased activity, ie increased frequency of inspection, sampling and analysis of discharges and their receiving waters, they do not increase in direct proportion.

In the highest volume band monitoring costs generally level out such that the marginal extra costs of monitoring above this threshold will be insignificant. Indeed it is recognised that the scale of discharges at or about this level would normally result in the NRA requiring extensive automatic monitoring equipment to be installed (at the discharger's expense). The provision of further charging bands within the volume category beyond 150,000 m³/day is then unnecessary, since the additional cost of enforcing and dealing with these discharges is marginal.

The weightings also reflect that in the lowest volume bands there may be no direct samples taken of the effluent and that inspections may take place on a less than annual frequency. However, the weightings do take account of the effects of impact monitoring, the cost of which is to be recovered from all dischargers.

CONTENT

General: The composition of a consented discharge is particularly important in terms of pollution impact and river quality. The control of composition is essential to ensure the chemical, bacteriological and biological contents and effects of a discharge on river quality meet with the required objectives and standards. These are achieved by restricting in the effluent the content of any substance which requires control. This control is exercised by limiting the amount of contaminants in effluents by imposing quality conditions in the consent which are legally enforceable. These conditions are usually expressed in terms of specified concentrations or quantities for various chemical substances (e.g. Suspended Solids shall not exceed 50 milligrams per litre, or 10 kilograms/per day) and are the critical parameters for control of discharge quality.

The consented quality conditions are set in order to achieve the River Quality Objectives and/or Environmental Quality Standards which have been designated for the receiving water.

Any consent containing a range of specified limits for chemical, biological, bacteriological, physical determinands or descriptive conditions requires monitoring. The degree and complexity of monitoring is commensurate with the significance of the discharge in terms of its effect on the river content and also for consent compliance and pollution risk.

Band Classification: The bands reflect increased complexity and costs of monitoring and the relative significance in terms of pollution impact.

Band	Weighting Factor
A	15.0
B	5.0
C	3.0
D	2.0
E	1.0
F	0.5
G	0.3

Selection of Content Band: The banding into which the discharge falls is determined by selecting the highest weighted consented determinand. A discharge which contained solids, BOD and complex phenolics, would fall into Group A as complex phenolics is the most critical determinand.

COSTS TO BE RECOVERED

The total cost of the Water Quality activity in 1991/92 is estimated to be:

	£M
• General Duties	20
• Pollution Incidents	10
• Discharges into Controlled Waters	41
	<hr/>
	71

The expenditure of £41m represents the costs of carrying out the following activities:

	£M
• Application processing	7
• Discharge sampling	5
• Discharge inspection	4
• Discharge related impact monitoring	5
• Laboratory services	12
• Consent review	5
• Direct administration	3
	<hr/>
	41

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- (i) The NRA has examined the features of a discharge which influence its monitoring and related costs and consider the main ones to be:
- Volume *How much of it*
 - Content *What is in it*
 - Receiving Water *Where it goes*
- (ii) The NRA considered a system of identifying the costs associated with individual discharges and billing on that basis but concluded it would be administratively cumbersome and would only add to the overall costs and hence the overall level of charges. It is proposed that the alternative to individual costing and charges is to band the main features of discharges and determine weighting factors for each band which reflect NRA effort and costs.
- (iii) The NRA considered the possibility of basing the charge on the actual volume and content of the discharge. This was not considered to be practical. In addition to this system being administratively cumbersome and expensive, much of the consenting, sampling and monitoring programme of the NRA is related to what is consented rather than the actual discharge. Accordingly the proposals allow for the charges to be determined by the discharge conditions. These are based on water quality and pollution control requirements and are more directly related to NRA resources input and costs/monitoring needs.
- (iv) The NRA considered whether the charges should be on a national or regional basis. The proposals are to have a national charge. The NRA is a national body which is implementing national policies and practices to achieve its overall objective in the most cost-efficient way. The proposed scheme has been constructed so that similar discharges to similar receiving waters will bear the same charge.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the scheme is to recover the costs incurred by the NRA in carrying out its functions under Schedule 12 of the Water Act 1989 and otherwise in relation to discharges into controlled waters.

In achieving this objective the scheme will seek:

- (i)* To be consistent with the NRA's policies and objectives of consent enforcement and pollution control and with the NRA's general aim of protecting and improving the water environment.
- (ii)* To demonstrate that the costs will be recovered equitably from dischargers in relation to their demands on NRA resources.
- (iii)* Not to show undue discrimination or undue preference.
- (iv)* To be compatible with other NRA charging schemes.

The proposed scheme will also:

- (i)* Enable dischargers to identify clearly the basis of their charge and annual sum in advance.
- (ii)* Be responsive to changes in policy and external and internal costs.
- (iii)* Minimise administrative and billing costs for the NRA and dischargers.

STATUTORY BACKGROUND

Section 113 (i) and Schedule 12 of the Water Act 1989 gave authority to the NRA, subject to various provisions, to make a scheme of charges in respect of applications and consents to discharge into controlled waters.

The scheme must have regard to the following matters referred to in Schedule 12, paragraph 9.

- (i)* The provisions of a scheme must be approved by the Secretary of State who will require the consent of the Treasury.
- (ii)* Before submitting a scheme to the Secretary of State for approval, it must be published so that representations and objections to it may be made to the Secretary of State.
- (iii)* Before approving a scheme, the Secretary of State must:
 - (a)* Consider representations and objections.
 - (b)* Have regard to the desirability that the amount recovered under the scheme does not exceed (taking one year with another) the reasonably attributable expenses incurred by the NRA in carrying out its functions under Schedule 12 and otherwise in relation to discharges to controlled waters.
 - (c)* Have regard to the need to assure that the scheme does not show undue preference or undue discrimination.
- (iv)* The person liable to pay the charge must be:
 - (a)* Where an application charge is made, the applicant.
 - (b)* Where a consent is given, the person to whom consent applies.
 - (c)* Where the charge is in respect of a consented discharge, the person who makes the discharge.
- (v)* The NRA must bring the provisions of any scheme to the attention of persons likely to be affected by it.

BAND C

Except where the consent falls in Bands A or B:

- (i) sewage effluent with numeric conditions other than volume other than those specified in Band E (ii).
- (ii) trade effluent of an organic nature with numeric conditions other than volume other than those included in Band G (ii).

BAND D

Except where the consent falls in Bands A, B or C:

- (i) Sewage effluent with no numeric conditions other than volume or only descriptive conditions other than those specified in Band E (ii).
- (ii) All other discharges of trade effluents other than those specified in Bands E, F and G.

Note. Annual Charges will not be made for discharges of sewage effluent from premises used only for domestic purposes of 5 cubic metres or less per day.

BAND E

Except where the consent falls in Bands A, B, C or D:

- (i) Site drainage from trade premises.
- (ii) Sewerage systems discharges and storm and emergency discharges at sewage treatment works and pumping stations.

All trade effluents of direct cooling water other than those specified in Band G.

BAND F

- (i) Surface water (not containing trade effluent).
- (ii) Trade effluent for the prevention of interference with mining and quarrying and for which the only conditions are one or more of volume, suspended solids, iron and pH.

BAND G

- (i) Trade effluent of direct cooling water for which the only conditions are one or more of volume, temperature and pH.
- (ii) Trade effluents where the consent permits the discharge of water abstracted from controlled water after use in a trade, subject to limits in the increase of concentrations of Biochemical Oxygen Demand and/or solids in suspension and/or ammonia in the water.

C The Receiving Water Factor

<i>Ground waters or land</i>	0.5
<i>Coastal waters</i>	0.8
<i>Surface waters</i>	1.0
<i>Estuarial waters</i>	1.5

For the purpose of this paragraph the waters referred to above shall have the following meaning:

GROUND WATERS

Ground waters are any waters contained in underground strata, or in:

- (i) a well, borehole or similar work sunk into underground strata, including any adit or passage constructed in connection with the well, borehole or work for facilitating the collection of water in the well, borehole or work; or
- (ii) any excavation into underground strata where the level of water in the excavation depends wholly or mainly on water entering it from the strata.

COASTAL WATERS

Coastal waters are any waters which extend seaward for three miles from the baselines for estuarial waters (as defined below) and waters seaward for three miles from the high water mark (as defined in Ordnance Survey maps) outside estuarial baselines.

SURFACE WATERS

Surface waters are the waters defined by section 103 of the 1989 Act as inland waters.

ESTUARIAL WATERS

Estuarial waters are any waters which are within the area which extends landward from the baselines identified in the 1985 Department of the Environment/National Water Council Pollution Survey maps, or such other maps as are deposited at the Authority's Regional offices for this purpose, upstream to the fresh-water limit

- D **The Financial Factor** in respect of the Annual Charge is the charge rate set annually in accordance with paragraph 3 above.

7 TIME FOR PAYMENT

- (1) The Application Charge shall be due and payable in full on the making of an application or the giving of a consent if no application is made.
- (2) Payment of the Annual Charge shall be due on 1 April except in the first year of the Scheme when it shall be due on the commencement of the Scheme.
- (3) If a consent is given after 1 April the Annual Charge is due 28 days after issue of the consent.

8 DECISIONS UNDER THE SCHEME

Where under this Scheme provision is made for anything to be assessed, agreed, determined, certified or otherwise decided by the Authority such decision may be given on its behalf and certified by the Chief Executive or any officer nominated by him for the purpose.

CHARGES FOR THE YEAR COMMENCING 1 APRIL 1991

The National Rivers Authority proposes to set charges in accordance with paragraph 3 of the Applications and Discharges Charges Scheme for the period from the commencement of the Scheme to 31 March 1992 as follows:

APPLICATION CHARGE

Standard £350
Reduced £50

ANNUAL CHARGE

Financial Factor £202.50 (*from 1 July 1991*).

Note: This is equivalent to £270 for a full year.

SCHEME OF CHARGES

1 COMMENCEMENT AND CITATION

- (1) This Scheme of Charges (the Scheme) is made by the National Rivers Authority pursuant to its powers in section 113 (1) of, and paragraph 9 of Schedule 12 to the Water Act 1989.
- (2) The Scheme has effect from 1 July 1991 to 31 March 1994.
- (3) The Scheme may be referred to as the National Rivers Authority Applications and Discharges Charges Scheme.

2 INTERPRETATION

In the Scheme, except where the context otherwise requires,

"the Authority" means the National Rivers Authority

"the 1989 Act" means the Water Act 1989 and except in so far as expressly interpreted herein, the Scheme shall be construed by reference to that Act;

"discharge" means a discharge of any effluent described in a consent;

"discharger" means any person who makes a discharge in pursuance of a consent during the year;

"consent" means a consent given or served by the Authority pursuant to Section 113 and Schedule 12 to the 1989 Act;

"year" means a period of 12 months commencing on 1 April but, for the period between the commencement of the Scheme and the following 31 March shall be that period.

3 THE CHARGES: CHARGE RATES

The Charge Rates comprising of the Standard Application Charge, the Reduced Application Charge and the Annual Charge Financial Factor in respect of charges payable under the Scheme will be set annually by the Authority with the approval of the Secretary of State for the Environment such that, taking one year with another, the total amount recoverable by way of charges by or under the Scheme does not exceed such amount as appears to the Secretary of State to be reasonably attributable to the expenses incurred by the Authority in carrying out its functions under Schedule 12 of the 1989 Act and otherwise in relation to discharges into controlled waters.

4 APPLICATION CHARGE

In respect of each application made to the Authority pursuant to and for the purposes of Section 108 (1) (a) or 108 (5) (a) or Section 109 of the 1989 Act there shall be payable by the person who makes the application and where consent is given under paragraph 5 of Schedule 12 by the person who is authorised to do anything by virtue of the consent and on whom the instrument giving consent has been served:

- (i) the Standard Application charge except as provided for in (ii) below;
- (ii) the Reduced Application Charge where the application for consent to discharge relates only to one or more of:
 - (a) sewage effluent where the proposed volume is 5 cubic metres or less per day;
 - (b) trade effluent from cooling or heat exchange where the proposed volume is 10 cubic metres or less per day;
 - (c) surface water not containing trade effluent.

5 ANNUAL CHARGE

- (1) Subject to paragraph (3) below, there shall be payable by each discharger in respect of each discharge a charge for a full year which is the product of the following four factors related to the consent pursuant to which the discharge is made.

A	<i>The Volume Factor</i>
B	<i>The Contents Factor</i>
C	<i>The Receiving Water Factor</i>
D	<i>The Financial Factor</i>

- (2) (i) Subject to paragraph (ii) below, where a consent authorises the discharge of more than one effluent a charge is made for each such effluent discharged whether or not they may be discharged together or from one or more outlets.
- (ii) Where (a) different effluents either receive the same treatment or are monitored together by the Authority prior to discharge and are then discharged from the same outlet, or (b) effluents of the same type are discharged from the same premises, subject to paragraph (iii) below, one charge only is made and the contents band applied is the highest into which any of the effluents fall.

- (iii) Where an effluent is discharged to more than one watercourse a charge is made for each discharge to a different watercourse.
 - (iv) An effluent for the purpose of this paragraph is one of a type which is listed in a table of effluents deposited at the Authority's Regional offices for the purpose of the Scheme prior to the year of charge.
- (3) Where a discharger is the occupier for a portion only of a year of premises from which a discharge may be made the amount payable is calculated by apportioning the charge for a full year pro rata to the period of occupation.
- (4) Subject to paragraph 3 above, no apportionment of charges is made where a consent restricts discharges to part or parts of the year or where a discharge is made in part or parts of the year under a consent which is in force for the whole of the year.
- (5) If a consent is varied during the year the factors will be re-assessed for the remainder of the year and where appropriate the annual charge adjusted.

6 THE FACTORS

- A (i) **The Volume Factor** relates to the maximum daily volume of discharge permitted by the consent as follows:

Cubic Metres	Factor
Up to and including 5	0.4
More than 5 up to and including 100	1.0
" " " " 100 " " " " 1,000	2.0
" " " " 1,000 " " " " 10,000	3.0
" " " " 10,000 " " " " 50,000	5.0
" " " " 50,000 " " " " 150,000	9.0
" " " " 150,000	14.0

- (ii) Subject to paragraph (iii) and (iv) below, where no maximum daily volume is fixed by a consent the volume factor is 1.0 except where the discharge is:
- (a) made in an emergency,
 - (b) surface water (not containing trade effluent),
 - (c) permitted by the consent on not more than 4 days per year,
 - (d) domestic sewage from a plant serving less than 25 people.
- when the factor is 0.4.
- (iii) For sewage treatment works final effluents:
- (a) the maximum daily volume is the flow to full treatment;

- (b) where no maximum daily volume is specified in the consent, but an average daily flow is given the daily maximum volume shall be taken to be 2.4 times the average daily flow. If a dry weather flow only is specified the daily maximum volume shall be taken to be 3 times the dry weather flow.

- (iv) For trade effluents where the daily dry weather flow is specified in the consent that flow shall be taken to be the maximum daily volume except where the discharge may contain rainfall when the maximum daily volume shall be taken to be 3 times the dry weather flow.

- B (i) **The Contents Factor** relates to the provisions in the consent controlling or regulating the contents of the discharge as follows:

Band	Factor
A	15.0
B	5.0
C	3.0
D	2.0
E	1.0
F	0.5
G	0.3

BAND A

Trade or sewage effluents:

- (i) Where the consent conditions contain any of the following substances:

Pesticides, including Organotins
Polychlorinated Biphenyls
Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons
Complex Phenolics
Organic Solvents, including HCB
Plasticisers
Fungicides
Herbicides

- (ii) Where the consent conditions include viruses.

- (iii) Where the consent conditions specify Bioassay Toxicity tests to determine compliance.

BAND B

Except where the consent falls in Band A, or when Band F (ii) applies trade or sewage effluent where the consent conditions contain any of the following substances:

Metals and Metalloids
Cyanides
Sulphides
Simple Phenolic Compounds
Bacteria

HOW THE CHARGE IS CALCULATED

The charge calculation is based on the following conditions of the consent:

How much of it - *Volume*

What is in it - *Content*

Where it goes - *Receiving waters*

Volume, content and receiving waters have been analysed into bands.

Each band has been given a factor to reflect cost.

When the factors have been determined for each discharge, the factors are multiplied to give the number of chargeable units.

The number of chargeable units is then multiplied by a unit rate to give the charge for the year. This unit rate is calculated by dividing the total costs by the total number of chargeable units.

The unit rate for the full financial year 1991/92 is £270. If the scheme is brought in from 1 July 1991, the nine month charge to 31st March 1992 will be £202.50.

Examples of how this scheme will work are:

- (i) A consent allows for a discharge of 8,000 cubic metres per day of organic trade effluent to a river.
- (ii) A consent allows for a discharge of 50 cubic metres per day of site drainage from trade premises to coastal water.

	Volume	Content	Receiving Water	Chargeable Units	Unit Rate £	Charge £
(i)	8,000	C	River			
	3 x	3 x	1	= 9	x 270	= 2430
(ii)	50	E	Coastal			
	1 x	1 x	0.8	= 0.8	x 270	= 216

The factors for individual discharges may be broadly assessed from the tables in the next column but more detailed information about the assessment is contained in the Scheme.

VOLUME

Cubic metres per day	Factor
0 - 5	0.4
> 5 - 100	1.0
> 100 - 1,000	2.0
> 1,000 - 10,000	3.0
> 10,000 - 50,000	5.0
> 50,000 - 150,000	9.0
> 150,000	14.0

CONTENT

Band	Factor
A - Complex organic, pesticides	15.0
B - Potentially toxic, metals etc	5.0
C - Organic sewage/Trade effluent	3.0
D - General trade effluent	2.0
E - Site drainage	1.0
F - Low environmental effect	0.5
G - Minimal environmental effect	0.3

RECEIVING WATER

	Factor
Ground	0.5
Coastal	0.8
Surface	1.0
Estuarial	1.5

EXAMPLE	MAX DAILY VOLUME M3/DAY	CONTENT	BAND	RECEIVING WATER	ANNUAL CHARGE £
Major Trade Discharge	200,000	Pesticide	A	Estuarial	85,050
Major STW	180,000	Organic Solvents	A	Surface	56,700
Large Trade	75,000	Complex Phenolics	A	Coastal	29,160
Medium STW	70,000	Metals	B	Surface	12,150
Large STW	120,000	Domestic Sewage	C	Estuarial	10,935
Medium Trade	60,000	Organic Trade Effluent	C	Surface	7,290
Small STW	2,500	Domestic Sewage	C	Estuarial	3,645
Minor STW	150	Domestic Sewage	C	Surface	1,620
Minor Package STW	20	Domestic Sewage	D	Ground	270
Small Trade	Rainfall related	Site Drainage	E	Coastal	216
Minor Trade	50	Direct Cooling Water	G	Surface	81

STW - Sewage Treatment Works

The above are examples of level of charges that may be paid by typical dischargers.

CONSENT REVIEW

It is in the best interests of both dischargers and the NRA to ensure that the consent and its conditions are up to date and an exercise is currently being carried out to validate existing consents. There are procedures for revoking and amending consents, and reviews may be carried out should dischargers consider that the existing consents and conditions are no longer appropriate.

DOMESTIC PREMISES

The NRA is carrying out a review of its responsibilities in relation to consents to discharge from domestic premises. Until this review is complete, charges for septic tanks and small treatment plants serving domestic households cannot be properly assessed. Accordingly, the scheme does not contain proposals to make charges in respect of such discharges.

INTRODUCTION

One of the National Rivers Authority's most important functions is to determine, issue and monitor compliance with discharge consents. The work was formerly funded by the Environmental Services Charge levied on all ratepayers by the former water authorities. These charges were abolished when the domestic rating system was discontinued. The work is presently funded by the general taxpayer. Future funding is to come from charges to dischargers as they apply for and hold consents.

The Government consultation paper 'Paying for Water Pollution Control' outlined a proposed framework of charges to be applied by the National Rivers Authority. This suggested a two element charging system:

- (a) to recover the once only costs associated with applications for new or modified consents, and
- (b) a charge for the recurring costs of monitoring effluents and controlled waters.

Following consultations, charging provisions were incorporated within Schedule 12 of the Water Act 1989 under which the Authority can require the payment of charges as specified in, or determined under, a Scheme requiring the approval of the Secretary of State and subject to Treasury consent

In respect of (a) with regard to applications and with effect from 1 October 1990, the Authority introduced a standard charge of £350 for determining new and revised consent conditions with a reduced rate charge of £50 payable in certain cases. A separate charge is applied for each application for consent to discharge and will be payable upon application. The application charge details are incorporated without change in the revised proposals.

The present proposals extend the scheme to include (b) where the charge will recover the recurring costs of monitoring effluents and controlled waters.

An extensive informal consultation exercise has already been carried out with representatives of groups of dischargers. This has been an extremely useful exercise and many of the comments and suggestions have been incorporated in the proposals.

Before submitting the Scheme for approval, the Authority must publish a notice setting out the proposals and giving an opportunity for representations and objections to be sent to the Secretary of State. The notice has been published in national newspapers.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information is obtainable from any NRA Regional Office, at the address on the back cover. Representations and/or objections to the proposed scheme may be made to the:

Secretary of State for the Environment

Department of the Environment

Room A401

Romney House

43 Marsham Street

London SW1P 3PY

CONTENTS

	PAGE NO:
Introduction	1
How the Charge is Calculated	3
Scheme of Charges	5
Background Information	
- Objectives of the Scheme	9
- Statutory Background	10
- Costs to be Recovered	11
- General Principles	12
- Features of the Scheme	
• <i>Volume</i>	13
• <i>Content</i>	14
• <i>Receiving Waters</i>	15
- Weighting Factors Summary	16
- Calculation of the Charges	17
- Chargeable Units	18
- Proposed Charges	19

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