

HO

PROPOSED
SCHEME OF
CHARGES

IN RESPECT OF
DISCHARGES TO
CONTROLLED WATERS

AN INTRODUCTION



NRA

National Rivers Authority

NEA Thames 196



ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

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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) an application charge to recover the once only costs associated with applications for new and revised consents, and
- (b) an annual charge for the recurring costs of monitoring effluents and controlled waters.

The first of these elements was introduced on 1 October 1990. A standard charge for determining new and revised consent conditions is £350 with a reduced charge of £50 in respect of certain small discharges.

The NRA now proposes to introduce by 1 July 1991 a charge for the recurring costs of monitoring effluents and controlled waters.

This leaflet gives a basic explanation of the scheme and shows examples of the charges that will be paid by typical dischargers.

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H O W T H E C H A R G E

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 three numbers are multiplied to give a 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 31 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 |

I S C A L C U L A T E D

| EXAMPLE | MAX DAILY VOLUME M ³ /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.

APPROVAL OF THE SCHEME

The draft Scheme has been submitted to the Secretary of State for the Environment for his approval. Any person who wishes to make comments, representations or objections about the Scheme should do so by 30 April 1991, in writing to:

Department of the Environment

Room A401

Romney House

43, Marsham Street

London SW1P 3PY

A copy of the draft Scheme and further information is available from:

National Rivers Authority

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