

QUARRY DEWATERING LICENSING

The implementation date for the regulation of the abstraction of water for quarry dewatering (transfer licensing) continues to slip: While all the indications up until the end of January were that things were on track, the word on the street is now **NOT BEFORE APRIL 2015**.

We don't think that this is official policy, but we understand that regulatory impact work is still ongoing and may not be finished until late spring / early summer. Then there needs to be final drafting and re-consultation on the transition arrangements, before completing the final regulations.

April 2015 brings us perilously close to a General Election which means there is a high likelihood of further delay with the potential for a new party, new government and new minister in power.

So What?

While we are not surprised by this outcome - we have been monitoring these proposed regulations since 1998 and there has been continual slippage — we are incredibly frustrated. The continual postponement, tardiness and misinformation makes forward planning in an industry that by its very nature has to try and predict the future all the time, almost impossible.

We still need clear guidance on issues such as:

- Exemptions for abstractions that present a low risk to the achievement of Water Framework Directive objectives
- The aspects of quarry water use that may require a licence
- Interaction with the future reform agenda for water abstraction licensing and control
- Issues of fairness and proportionality in implementing licensing control
- Transitional arrangements

What do I do now?

Our advice is back to what it has been for the last 4 years— do very little except watch this space. We continue to see no need to embark on significant expenditure until the regulations and transitional arrangements are clearly defined, which is probably a year away. If any work is undertaken now, then it would be to collect and collate water balance information on sites; volumes of water abstracted and discharged; and understanding the flow of water through a site in terms of quantity and quality.

If nothing else, this information will provide quarry operators with an immediate financial benefit by allowing a more efficient water management system to be designed. Oh, and if you haven't started dewatering and are in a position to, then start. It is probably better to be in the transitional arrangements than not. This may have its own implications so check with us first.



WE ARE HERE TO HELP

Understanding the risk to your business of changes in regulations is vital, and mitigating the risk as effectively as possible is essential. **Contact us today** to discuss how we can help you to meet your obligations, reduce your exposure and save you money.

“If Envireau Water can't get you an abstraction licence, nobody can”

Visit our website for more information.

www.envireauwater.co.uk

