



NEW AUTHORISATIONS QUARRY DEWATERING

We last issued a bulletin on quarry dewatering in August 2016. The message then was “Implementation will be October 2016”.

We said January or April 2017 was more likely.

It is now March 2017. So what is the situation?

We have resisted issuing a bulletin until we could see through the fog. The fog hasn't cleared but we need to tell you what we know and think.

WHAT WE KNOW

- What DEFRA/EA said during the summer/autumn of 2016 has not come to pass.
- There has been no further detail published on the regulations.
- There has been no further response to consultations.
- There has been intense lobbying, not only from the quarrying industry, but also from other industries which are affected by the changes.
- The industry is desensitised about the changes, now that implementation has been continually delayed for nearly 15 years.
- The official line is that “Implementation will be this summer”.



BREXIT

- The message from DEFRA now is that Brexit is expected to take up considerable parliamentary time.



WHAT WE THINK

- There still isn't ministerial sign off on the proposals and until that happens, final drafting of the regulations cannot be completed.
- BREXIT is taking up DEFRA resources and there is little, if any, left for other issues.
- There is very little, if any, chance that implementation will be “this summer”.
- We will stick our necks out and say that if implementation is this year, it will be October and that there is a 50:50 chance of this happening.
- There is an increasing chance that implementation will be put to one side for now and possibly be rolled in to abstraction licence reform.

SO WHAT?



Uncertainty is never good for any business. Investment decisions need to be made and they can't be made without certainty in the regulatory framework.



Keep watching this space. We will keep you informed at critical times and when we feel there is some clarity.



Our clients include the largest mineral operators in the UK, agricultural estates, major horticultural businesses, food and drink producers and processors, water bottlers, leisure companies, industrial processors and a whole host of other smaller abstractors.

We have unparalleled in-house experience of complex licensing scenarios and have secured abstraction licences for clients in some of the most environmentally sensitive catchments otherwise 'closed' to new abstractions. We specialise in technical negotiation with the Regulators and design of appropriate licences.

We are actively involved in the "new authorisations" process as active members of the Mineral Products Association Water Group, as well as across other parts of our market sectors and related specialist interest groups and consultation forums. This gives us a view of the issues, the policy development and regulator decisions that no other similar consultant has.

Our combination of experience in the minerals sector and abstraction licensing is unique in the UK.

Prior to the start of the licensing process we can:



Review your active dewatering, the data you hold and your location and advise on both the scope of data ongoing collection and the local concerns of the Regulator which will be factors in the determination of your application.



Advise on work programs to get you into the right place.



Set your mind at ease if you have everything in place.

Envireau Water provides a full abstraction licence application service, acting as the agent throughout the determination process and designing or negotiating the best licence for you. We have a detailed knowledge and understanding of catchment hydrology, hydrogeology, environmental impact assessment and, most importantly, we know how the Regulators work and what they are looking for, which is why our submitted application packs are frequently praised by licensing officers.

HOW CAN ENVIREAU WATER HELP?

We are the UK's leading independent, abstraction licensing and water management specialists. Our experience comes from many years managing water related issues and negotiating abstraction licences for some of the UK's largest independent water users in the UK.



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