

Area 7E. 9 Millbank c/o Nobel House 17 Smith Square London SW1P 3JR

Direct Line: 020 8026 4504 Enquiries: 030 0068 6400

E-mail: milo.purcell@defra.gsi.gov.uk DWI Website: http://www.dwi.gov.uk

14 December 2016

To: Board Level and Day to Day contacts of Water and Sewerage Companies and Water Companies in England and Wales with Undertakings for metaldehyde and/or other pesticides

Dear Sir/Madam

guardians of drinking water quality

Guidance for reporting on Undertakings for metaldehyde and/or other pesticides in March 2017

Background

1. In DWI Information Letter 6/2016 the Inspectorate committed to providing guidance for companies reporting on their progress to date with catchment management activities. The catchment management Undertakings contain the following step:

"Provide a report to DWI on the progress to date and outcomes of the catchment measures included in this Undertaking, and proposals for any further measures required, to secure or facilitate compliance. Include in this report proposals for demonstration of delivery of the required outcomes in the period to 31 Dec 2019. By March 2017¹"

Objective of company reports

2. The objective of these reports is for companies to provide the evidence to demonstrate and justify the solutions they are putting in place as the optimum balance of catchment and abstraction management and blending measures to secure or facilitate compliance with metaldehyde (and/or other pesticides, where relevant; assume included when referring to metaldehyde below), and to report the outcomes of investigations into all of the options they have considered.

¹ This date was brought forward by 12 months (from March 2018) in <u>DWI Information Letter 06/2016</u> (8 July 2016). Companies have been issued with revised Undertakings.

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Home Page: www.dwi.gov.uk E mail: <u>dwi.enquiries@defra.gsi.gov.uk</u>

- 3. The Inspectorate also needs to understand the level of metaldehyde challenge that remains after the implementation of the optimum balance of the mitigation measures employed. Therefore, the reports need to include a forecast of the likely impact of current company programmes of catchment and abstraction management and blending measures on metaldehyde levels in raw and treated water and the benefits likely to be delivered by 31 Dec 2019, as the current programmes are continued and enhanced.
- 4. The reports will be used, with any other evidence available, by the Inspectorate in 2017 to disseminate knowledge accumulated to date and to update guidance on mitigating risks from metaldehyde.

The reporting template

- 5. A standard template for the submission of company reports is given in Appendix 1. Risk assessments for the catchments covered in the Undertakings should be kept up to date with the findings from the mitigation actions carried out across each catchment.
- 6. Completed reports should be sent to the DWI Improvement Programmes mail box by 31 March 2017.
- 7. **NOTE**: The Inspectorate waives the requirement, for 2017 only, for submission of annual progress reports, due in January 2017, for these Undertakings.

Any enquiries about the content of this letter should be referred to Caroline Knight, Inspector, email address: caroline.knight@defra.gsi.gov.uk.

This letter is being sent electronically to the Board Level and Day to Day contacts with relevant Undertakings. Please acknowledge receipt by email to dwi.enquiries@defra.gsi.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully

rilo Pulcell.

Milo Purcell

Deputy Chief Inspector of Drinking Water

Appendix 1 – Summary report on progress with catchment management programmes to facilitate compliance with metaldehyde and/or other pesticides

Companies should submit a brief summary report for **each catchment/sub-catchment/supply system** covered by the Undertakings.

It is for companies to determine how best to divide their area into catchments/sub-catchments or supply systems for these summary reports taking into account that they need to, as far as possible, link catchment activity to water treatment works to illustrate the impact of the mitigation measures on final water quality, as well as local raw water quality. Some catchments/sub-catchments/supply systems may have more than one of the measures identified on the table below (items 1-5).

Dividing the areas covered by Undertakings in this way means that there may be multiple summary reports for each Undertaking, so companies should include a table and map showing how the total area covered by the Undertaking has been divided.

Reports should be a **BRIEF SUMMARY** (perhaps a maximum of 10 sides) of mitigation activity carried out in each catchment/sub-catchment/supply system since 2008. Detailed information on history, methodology, programme design and implementation should be avoided (or referred to in a separate Appendix if necessary).

These summary reports should concentrate on the outcomes achieved in terms of changes in metaldehyde levels in raw and treated water, impacts on company operations and lessons learned. Evidence arising from this work that supports alternative approaches should be included.

Undertaking Ref No:		XXX 1234
Date:		xx/xx/xx
Catchment/sub- catchment/ supply system name:		One report for each catchment/sub-catchment/supply system.
		There may be multiple schemes for each of measure types 1-5 below in a sub-catchment
Name of Safeguard zones		,
and/or Drinking Water		
Protected Areas involved		There may be more than one estebment/sub
DWI Undertaking Reference:		There may be more than one catchment/sub-catchment/supply system covered by each Undertaking.
		Companies should look to minimise the number of reports per Undertaking whilst retaining catchment-based logic in the manner in which this activity is reported.
Scheme Parameter(s):		Metaldehyde (and/or other pesticides)
Location (WSZ/WTW names and ref numbers):		BRIEF description of catchment/sub- catchment/supply system, including map showing relevant details and boundaries – including Safeguard zones and Drinking Water Protected Area boundaries.
This report may be shared with the Environment Agency for its work regarding the current NEP/PR19. Please tick this box if you DO NOT want us to share this report with the EA.		
Catchment management trials:	BRIEF description for each site where product substitution or alteration to pesticide use (including calibration of equipment) measures have been implemented including:	
		pe of programme (e.g. PES, subsidised ferric hosphate etc);
	b. d	uration of programme;
		number of participants, mass of metaldehyde removed rom ecosystem;
		6 reduction in metaldehyde concentrations identified n local watercourses;
	e. is	ssues arising.

Abstraction management schemes:	BRIEF description for each site where abstraction management measures have been implemented including:	
	a. trigger levels employed;	
	b. number of times and duration of abstraction management employed;	
	c. estimate of volume of water "let by", indication of how often the resource position would mean that this is not possible, taking demand projections into account (i.e. an indication of the sustainability of this measure);	
	d. issues arising.	
Treatment optimisation:	BRIEF description for each site where treatment changes to facilitate removal of metaldehyde have be implemented, including:	
	a. elements of treatment changed;	
	b. evidence of impact on metaldehyde levels in treated water;	
	c. issues arising.	
4. Blending options:	BRIEF description for each site where blending of treated water is used to control metaldehyde levels in supply including:	
	a. volumes involved;	
	b. estimated impact on supplied water;	
	c. issues arising.	
5. Other mitigation measures:	BRIEF description for each site where other options are used to control metaldehyde levels in supply including:	
	a. measures used;	
	b. estimated impact on supplied water;	
	c. issues arising.	

 BRIEF description of monitoring programme of raw and treated water (covering period 2013 - 2020) a. all sample data in separate files raw and treated (date, location, metaldehyde level); b. separate graphs showing raw and treated water in the area over the period covering before and during the activities described in 1-5 above. 		
BRIEF summary of current (i.e. March 2017) levels of metaldehyde (raw and treated water)at each site (i.e. supply point/zone as applicable)		
BRIEF description of additional initiatives that the water company has in progress or planned for 2017-2020 to continue the programme to:		
a. cover larger areas of high risk land;		
b. quantify contribution of metaldehyde from non-agricultural use;		
c. identify suitable boundaries or criteria - agreed with all partners for potential future regulation of use;		
 d. ensure that planned measures are sustainable over the long term; 		
e. identify risks/issues outside company control that affect the delivery of these measures;		
f. research innovative treatment options to improve the removal of metaldehyde from raw water.		
FORECAST levels of metaldehyde (raw and treated water) based on continuation of current programme of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 above, and any planned enhancements (in 8 above), NOT including installation of treatment specifically to manage metaldehyde		
a. forecast for each site;		
 b. based on assuming average rainfall and average slug risk; or to give a range, taking into account rainfall/slug challenge variation 		

10. Mitigation measures post -2020

BRIEF description of **further** measures that the company believes may be required appropriate in this catchment/sub-catchment/supply system to deliver compliance in drinking water;

- a. identify measures;
- b. include evidence to support inclusion of these further measures
- c. identify support required from other stakeholders to enable delivery;
- d. identify expected outcomes with evidence.

End