



guardians of drinking water quality

DRINKING WATER INSPECTORATE

Zone 2/F4, Ashdown House
123 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 6DE

Direct Line: 020 7944 5933
Enquiries: 020 7944 5956
Facsimile: 020 7944 5969

E-mail: jeni.colbourne@defra.gsi.gov.uk
DWI Website: <http://www.dwi.gov.uk>

Information Letter 18/2003

19 December 2003

To: Board Level and Day to Day Contacts of Water and Sewerage Companies in England and Wales

Dear Sir or Madam,

MONITORING FOR CONSERVATIVE PARAMETERS IN WATER SUPPLY ZONES SUPPLIED BY BULK SUPPLIES OF TREATED WATER

Purpose

1. The purpose of this letter is to advise companies on arrangements for monitoring conservative parameters in small discrete water supply zones that are supplied wholly by a bulk supply of treated water from another water undertaker.

Background

2. Conservative parameters are those which can be monitored at supply points instead of at consumers' taps, as they are unlikely to change in concentration or composition throughout the distribution system. Examples of conservative parameters are given in the Interim Guidance on the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2000¹ in the section relating to supply points.
3. A number of companies have bulk supply arrangements with neighbouring water companies. In some cases the bulk supply feeds a small discrete area, with very few properties. The receiving company still has to designate this as a water supply zone but is then faced with the regulatory burden of monitoring for conservative parameters.

General Approach

4. In such situations, the Inspectorate is prepared to consider applications from companies to use supply point data for monitoring carried out by the bulk supplier, rather than requiring the receiving company to undertake parallel monitoring in the zone supplied by the bulk supply. A template for applications is attached in Annex A to this letter.
5. Each application should contain details on the relevant zones involved in the bulk supply arrangements; the population receiving the bulk supply; details of the

¹ Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2001 in Wales

supply points where the monitoring will be undertaken by the bulk supplier; and the parameters that will be monitored. This is because in certain pairings of supply points, further sampling may be needed in the zones supplied.

6. If the application is approved by DWI, both companies will need to agree on data transfer arrangements and relevant communication arrangements. The bulk supplier will need to provide the receiving company with all relevant compliance data on a monthly basis. The receiving company must then include this data in its 'Data Table' returns for the water supply zone receiving the bulk supply, with an appropriate comment in the 'comments' column of the table. The receiving company should also ensure that the zone is properly referenced in this and other tables specified in Annex B of Information Letter 6/2003 (Revised). The bulk supplier should not include the transferred data additionally in its own monthly compliance returns.
7. The receiving company will also need to be aware of any sampling or analysis problems associated with the results and the actions taken in the event of a sample failing the prescribed concentration. Any such failures will have to be notified to DWI by both parties, along with details of the investigations into the cause of the failure. Samples for conservative parameters monitored in this way may also be included in vertical audits trails selected for the receiving company.

Enquiries

8. Any enquiries about the letter should be addressed to Claire Jackson (telephone 020 7082 8010, Claire.Jackson@defra.gsi.gov.uk) or, if IT related, to Andy Taylor (telephone 020 7082 8019, andy.taylor@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

Circulation

9. Copies of this letter are being sent to Pamela Taylor, Chief Executive, Water UK; Richard Bird and Richard Wood, Water Supply and Regulation Division, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; June Milligan, Environment Division, The National Assembly for Wales; Tim Hooton, Drinking Water Quality Regulator for Scotland; Randal Scott, Drinking Water Inspectorate for Northern Ireland; and Rowena Tye, Office of Water Services.
10. This letter is being sent electronically to Board Level contacts. Please acknowledge receipt by email to dwi.informationletters@defra.gsi.gov.uk. Hard copies are not being sent but the letter may be freely copied.

Yours sincerely



Professor Jeni Colbourne
Chief Inspector