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guardians of drinking water quality

DWI Information Letter 01/2007

15 February 2007

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

TECHNICAL AUDIT OF WATER COMPANIES UNDER SECTION 86 OF THE WATER INDUSTRY ACT 1991: SUMMARY REPORT FOR THE VERTICAL AUDITS FOR PESTICIDE PARAMETERS.

Dear Sir or Madam

Purpose

1. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the summary of findings and conclusions from the vertical audits for pesticide parameters carried out during 2005 and 2006.

Background

2. The annual inspection process has always included a number of vertical audit trails for selected parameters. In recent years the Inspectorate has refined the process to take account of the number of parameters audited in relation to the size of the company and also the way in which the parameters are selected.

3. Steve Scott, a consultant appointed as a DWI Temporary Inspector, was commissioned to carry out the vertical audits for pesticide parameters. A risk based approach was taken on the number of samples and companies to be audited, based on the relative size of the company in terms of population supplied and findings from previous audits.

Detail

4. 22 samples and 11 different pesticides were audited which covered 16 companies. Mr Scott made a total of 16 recommendations on matters which, in his opinion, could result in a foreseeable risk of breaching a

regulatory duty. Mr. Scott also made 5 recommendations to the Inspectorate in the summary report.

5. The Inspectorate endorses Mr. Scott's findings and recommendations and will be taking action on these recommendations.

6. Mr. Scott summarised the findings of his audits for the Inspectorate. The report details the recurrent themes and deficiencies which were identified and is available on the Inspectorate's website at www.dwi.gov.uk/regs/infolett/2007.info0107AnnexA.pdf. Reference to individual companies and their laboratories has been removed.

Enquiries

7. Any enquiries regarding this letter should be made to Jane Allen or myself.

8. Copies of this letter are being sent to Pamela Taylor, Chief Executive, Water UK; Richard Wood, Water Supply and Regulation Division, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; Nicola Thomas, Environment Division, The National Assembly for Wales; Colin McLaren Drinking Water Quality Regulator for Scotland; Randal Scott, Drinking Water Inspectorate for Northern Ireland; and Rowena Tye, Office of Water Services

Yours sincerely

S. A Evans

Sharon A Evans
Deputy Chief Inspector (Operations)