

## **NFA ENVIRONMENT BULLETIN OCTOBER 2013**

### **NFA ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

NFA Environment Committee met at the National Metalforming Centre, West Bromwich on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October. A full set of minutes from the meeting has been circulated.

### **DEFRA CONSULTATIONS**

- 1- DEFRA is continuing the series of consultations on EU/UK Competencies on various facets or interfaces of EU and UK responsibilities. The title of 'competencies' is somewhat misleading. The discussion is around the boundary between EU owned or responsibilities for regulatory actions and those that reside with the UK. The end result towards the end of March 2014 will be a series of reports ***but without any conclusions!*** that will be presented to Parliament in the run up to the next General Election. NFA has at several opportunities questioned hard the statement that no conclusions will be drawn. If these reports are to shape Government policy in the future, as is said it is extraordinary that no conclusions will be publically available.

None of the current facets of this consultation are directly relevant to NFA activities.

- 2- DEFRA is consulting on charges made by the Local Authority Unit for regulating A2 and Part B activities. Legislation obliges the regulators to recover their costs in managing the regulation of A2 and Part B sites under the Industrial Emissions Directive. The principal is full recovery of costs and 'the polluter pays'. Local Authorities have suffered a 7.5% cut in grant from central Government that is aimed at 'driving efficiency'. Costs of regulation are also based on the OPRA risk rating of the site. The consultation proposes a freeze in charges. NFA will formally support this proposal!

### **ENVIRONMENT AGENCY CONSULTATIONS**

- 1- EA is consulting on its charges for Part A1 status process under IED. All in all most charges remain frozen. There are some new charges for water abstraction licenses, for Emissions Trading Scheme, Clean Development and Joint Implementation. Derogations from emission limits from BAT will be charged as substantial variations in order to reflect the work needed by the Agency. No increases are proposed for the other regulated activities of EA. EA is scrutinised by the National Audit Office and has to justify all increases proposed. Overall charges increases are modest, covering 2014/15, 2.7% in line with

inflation, after having been frozen for the two previous years, , and neither is the increase proposed being extended across most EA activities. Again, EA is legally obliged to recover its costs in full. NFA could support the proposals without pain to members.

- 2- The EA consultation on 'Water for Life' and the next stages of the individual River Basin Management Plans is still open till mid December 2013. Members are again advised to scrutinise the RBMP in which their operating sites are situated and reply to the consultation if judged necessary. NFA has made a brief review of the Severn-Trent RBMP and observes that former mining activities account for only 2% of metals input into controlled waters in this plan. Diffuse emissions from non-agricultural sources ie urban areas, are identified as a significant source of pollution.
- 3- Environment Agency is consulting on changes to H1 guidance. 7 of 11 Annexes containing guidance are being either amended and/or combined.
  - For example Annexe D and E are combined to meet Water Framework Directive requirements to allow one screening methodology for surface water discharges. - - Annexe K is being redefined to enable consideration of derogations from Emission Limits listed in BAT under the Industrial Emissions Directive.-
  - A point source odour screening tool is added into Annexe F.
  - Revised ammonia assessment methodology in Annexe B.
  - Annexes A and C have been combined for amenity assessment, environment accident risk assessment for Predicted Environment Concentration, also for climate change implications and flooding risk.
  - Modifications are proposed to the H1 software tool to demonstrate how changes proposed in Annexes D and F will refer to OPRA scoring and PRTR reporting.

Members are again strongly recommended to review the consultation on changes to H1 and to respond, copied to NFA, with any submissions.

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**7<sup>th</sup> November 2013**