

**NFA ENVIRONMENT BULLETIN
MARCH 2013**

NFA DIRECTORS MEETING

Brook Green Consulting attended the NFA Board meeting. The Environment section of the minutes was provided by BGC Limited after the meeting.

EURACTIV WORKSHOP ON EU REACH

NFA attended this meeting organised by Euractiv, the press agency monitoring and reporting on EU Commission and Parliament activities. A report on the meeting has been circulated.

DEFRA BETTER REGULATION REVIEW OF THE NON-FERROUS INDUSTRY AND SURFACE ENGINEERING INDUSTRY

Both NFA and SEA (Surface Engineering Association, the trade association for electroplating) contributed to the DEFRA review of better regulation for the above industries. The draft report was circulated for comment and has to be commended for an accurate reflection of industry comments and criticisms. Very little further input was needed and the final report is awaited.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY – MEETING ON OPERATOR DATA PORTAL CHANGES

NFA attended the meeting by Environment Agency to present proposed changes in environment data reporting requirements. A note on the meeting has been circulated. In summary the EA proposes to adopt a 'portal' for data submission that would enable reporting companies to input their data directly into the EA system. This appears to be a sensible proposal and a good fit with the Government's reduction of bureaucracy plans.

VISIT TO CENTRE FOR ECOLOGY AND HYDROLOGY, LANCASTER

NFA visited Dr Steve Lofts of CEH to discuss aspects of Water Framework Directive and its application in the UK. A note on the meeting has been circulated. CEH recently produced a science report on metals EQSs for Environment Agency. Key issue of discussion in this meeting is how EA will assess a natural background level for zinc in the aquatic environment. Dr Lofts also revealed that the Netherlands, authors of the EU Risk Assessment for Zinc have announced that they no longer support the concept of the added risk approach (adding the EQS to a notional background level of zinc).

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY 'CHEMICALS IN THE ENVIRONMENT WORKSHOP'

NFA attended the Environment Agency 'Chemicals in the Environment' workshop. A note on the workshop has been circulated. Attendees from the Agency, water industry and industry associations attended. It became clear that certain key documents were not available to all industries and this should be remedied. The two most important are the joint EA/UK Water Industry source apportionment investigation and the 'Mixing Zone' sampling protocol. Metals (other than lead, Cadmium and Mercury) were not identified by the workshop attendees as the most crucial pollutants.

NFA FORUM

The NFA Forum 2013 was held on the 21st March.

The forum had sufficient attendees to make the event worthwhile both for speakers and attendees. A review of the comment/feedback forms and finances will be prepared.

INDUSTRY WORKSHOP ON EQSS AND THE WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

As a consequence of the EA presentation on the WFD at the Forum, the EA agreed to hold a further workshop with scientists and regulators on the 4th June at their offices in Solihull.

DEFRA AND ENVIRONMENT AGENCY CONSULTATIONS

No consultations of direct relevance to NFA were identified.

REVIEW OF CONSULTATION PROTOCOL

NFA has been canvassing other trade associations on the Governments revamped consultation protocol. The previous protocol, itself unsatisfactory, has been revised but without consultation. The Government is approaching this revision on a 'suck it and see basis'. General opinion appears to be 'it sucks'. The House of Lords, under Lord Goodlad, has established a committee to address the general dissatisfaction and has identified all the concerns that industry also has. A report from the House Lords Committee is expected in April/May and is awaited with interest. NFA will establish contact with the Committee to add its support over the concerns.

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