

**NFA ENVIRONMENT BULLETIN  
MAY 2013**

**CONSULTATIONS**

**ENVIRONMENT AGENCY**

No consultations of direct relevance to NFA were found in May.

**DEFRA**

DEFRA has two open consultations.

Consultation on EU and UK on Environment and Climate Change balance of competency opened on 20th May and closes on the 12 August. NFA has been invited to DEFRA meeting 21st June on this consultation. An NFA response to the consultation will be recommended after this meeting. [The UK is carrying out a rolling review of 32 topics on arrange of subjects where EU legislation obliges the UK to comply to a minimum standard. The consultees are invited to provide information on the competencies of the EU on a topic. This consultation is being running jointly with DECC (Dept of Energy and Climate Change).]

DEFRA is also consulting on legislations on reforming of environmental protection guidelines and information obligations. The consultation runs from 15th May to 31st March 2013. This consultation arises out of the Red Tape Challenge and simplification of legislation in order to make it more user-friendly and easier to understand with respect to compliance obligations. The consultation will be reviewed and a draft NFA response proposed in due course.

DEFRA has made available a list of responses to the now closed consultation on diffuse urban pollution. NFA submitted a response to this consultation. No evaluation of these responses by DEFRA is yet available.

**DECC (DEPT OF ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE)**

There are no open consultations from DECC in May.

**dBIS (DEPT. OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS)**

dBIS has one open consultation on the WEEE legislation (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment).

This legislation is not directly relevant to NFA but of interest in that it now obliges producers and suppliers of consumer electrical and electronic goods to operate 'take back' schemes aimed at recycling such goods. The legal framework for this scheme is laid out and particular emphasis is made of this being operated 'free of charge' to the consumer. Recycling may be carried out in the UK or by export to markets where equivalent high standards of operation are in place.

UK Water Framework Directive

An in-depth review of information, papers and research reports on the UK WFD Technical Advisory Group was carried out prior to the upcoming Environment Agency workshop on bioavailability of metals (4th June). A number of reports, co-sponsored by IZA (International Zinc Association) and ECI (European Copper Institute) on the Dissolved Organic Carbon, crucial to the use of the Biotic Ligand Model for bio-availability of metals: and an assessment of monitoring data for zinc and copper –specific pollutants under WFD. (21 metals are in the WFD as Priority Hazardous Substances or Priority Substances or Specific Pollutants.)

### **SOCIETY OF ENVIRONMENTAL TOXICOLOGISTS AND CHEMISTS CONFERENCE, 12TH-16TH MAY**

Brook Green Consulting attended the SETAC conference in Glasgow. Informal discussions were held on WFD topics with academics from the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, University of Plymouth, consultants to Environment Agency, EU and UK Environment Agency staff, as well as attending many lectures on metals related topics. BGC also took part in the global metals industry Eco-Tox Advisory Panel meeting, composed of academics from around the globe and metals industry representatives.

**W.Piatkiewicz**  
**11th June 2013**