

Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010



Ann Marie Donlon

Environmental Licensing Programme

Tuesday 16th October 2012, Horse & Jockey

Overview of Presentation

- Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010), as amended
- Examination
- Technical Amendment

Groundwater Regulations – Environmental Objectives

Regulation 4

- n prevent or limit, as appropriate, the input of pollutants into groundwater and prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater;
- n reverse any significant and sustained upward trend in the concentration of any pollutant resulting from the impact of human activity in order to progressively reduce pollution of groundwater;

Groundwater Regulations

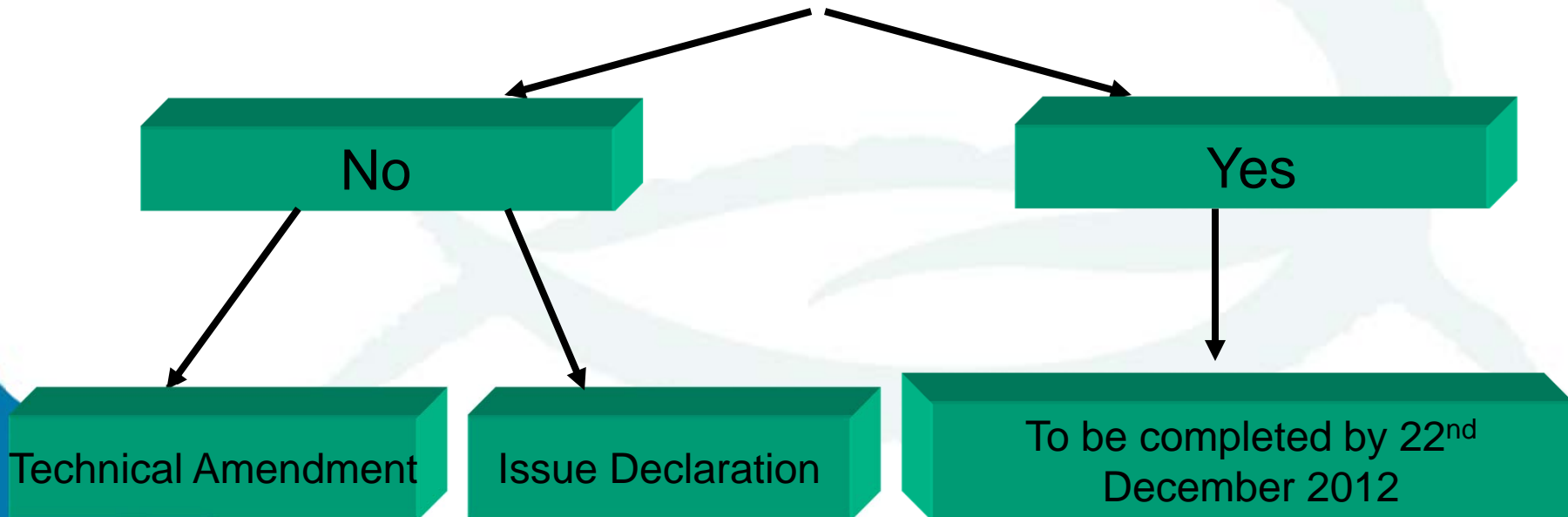
Part VI - Regulation 56

- n Where necessary to assess the impact of existing plumes of pollution in bodies of groundwater that may threaten the achievement of the objectives in Article 4 of Directive 2000/60/EC, and in particular, those plumes resulting from point sources and contaminated land, the Agency shall carry out, or shall cause to have carried out, additional trend assessments for identified pollutants in order to verify that plumes from contaminated sites do not expand, do not cause the chemical status of the body or group of bodies of groundwater to deteriorate, and do not present a risk for human health and the environment.

Groundwater Regulations - Regulation 12

- Examine all authorisations IPPC, Waste, Waste Water for compliance with the regulations by 22nd December 2012.

REVIEW



Technical Amendment provisions WMA

- n The Agency may amend a licence for the purposes of ...
- n (bb) facilitating compliance by the holder of a licence with technical requirements that may be established, or amended, arising from the introduction of new Community acts or amendments to existing Community acts, or
- n (c) otherwise facilitating the operation of the licence and the making of the amendment does not result in the relevant requirements of section 40(4) ceasing to be satisfied

Overview of licences requiring Technical Amendment

- n Examined under GW regs 461 IPPC, 109 waste, 64 WWDL
- n The Agency has identified upwards on **200 licences** at this time that require a technical amendment for the following broad categories:
 - n Septic tanks/ on-site waste water treatment systems with percolation areas,
 - n Landspreading,
 - n Landfills,
 - n Lagoons, wetlands,
 - n Existing plumes of pollution in bodies of groundwater.

Technical Amendment - Landfills

- n You will be officially notified of the technical amendment before 22nd December 2012
- n The new condition will read as follows or similar:
 - n Within **eighteen months of the date of this technical amendment**, the licensee shall carry out a risk screening and where necessary a technical assessment in accordance with the *Guidance on the Authorisation of Discharges to Groundwater*, published by the Environmental Protection Agency. A report on the outcome of the screening and where relevant the recommendations of the technical assessment in relation to the setting of groundwater compliance points and values, shall be included in the next AER. Any actions required to demonstrate compliance with the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010, shall be agreed by the Agency and implemented before 22nd December 2015. Groundwater monitoring results shall be submitted annually or as required in the Schedules to this licence.

Guidance

- n *Guidance on the Authorisation of Discharges to Groundwater*, published by the Environmental Protection Agency
- n <http://www.epa.ie/downloads/pubs/water/ground/dischgw/>
- n Major elements of the assessment:
 - n Trend assessment
 - n Status assessment
 - n Risk assessment

What it means..

- n The condition requires an assessment of discharges (inputs) to groundwater from point sources of potential pollution as a means of satisfying the requirements of the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010, as amended (S.I. No 9 of 2010). Any actions arising from the assessment will be required to be implemented before 22nd December 2015.**
- n Point source inputs to groundwater = escape of leachate from landfills beyond engineered and/or geological barriers

Technical Amendment

Terms to be inserted into the Glossary:

- n **Compliance Point** The point (location, depth) at which a compliance value should be met. Generally it is represented by a borehole or monitoring well from which representative groundwater samples can be obtained.
- n **Compliance Value** The concentration of a substance and associated compliance regime that, when not exceeded at the compliance point, will prevent pollution and/or achieve water quality objectives at the receptor.

Technical Amendment

Terms to be amended in the Glossary:

- n Incident** The following shall constitute as incident for the purposes of this licence:
- (i) an emergency;
 - (ii) any emission which does not comply with the requirements of this licence;
 - (iii) any exceedance of the daily duty capacity of the waste handling equipment;
 - (iv) any trigger level specified in this licence which is attained or exceeded;
 - (v) any compliance value specified in this licence which is attained or exceeded; and,**
 - (vi) any indication that environmental pollution has, or may have, taken place.

Technical Amendment - Septic tanks

- n Any waste water treatment system and any percolation area for the treatment of sanitary effluent arising on –site, shall satisfy the criteria set out in the ***Code of Practice: Waste Water Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses***, published by the Environmental Protection Agency, within six months of date of grant of this technical amendment.

Thank You

n Any queries can be directed to eoreview@epa.ie