

MIDDLE LEVEL COMMISSIONERS AND ADMINISTERED INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARDS



Treated effluent discharges from Anglian Water Services (AWS) Water Recycling Centre (WRC) or from the Public Sewerage System

Developers should be aware that the Supreme Court has confirmed that any connection to a public sewer under Section 106 of the Water Industry Act 1991 or agreement to construct a public sewer under Section 104 of that Act also requires our consent where our systems would be affected. Therefore, in addition to any permission from the local planning authority, the Environment Agency and Anglian Water Services (AWS), the consent of the Board/Commissioners is also required for the acceptance of any increased flows or volumes to our system. Such consent will not be given unless we consider that the discharge can be properly dealt with within our system and the costs of accommodating that discharge are met.

Further details, including the application form for Discharge Consent, our fees document and associated supporting information can be found on our website at www.middlelevel.gov.uk.

Water Level/Flood Risk Management

The 'developer' will need to provide appropriate information concerning the proposed treated effluent discharge from the site before further consideration can be given to any proposal. It will be a requirement that this includes a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) which demonstrates that the receiving watercourse system has the capacity to accept the increased volume and flows of treated effluent discharging with no adverse impacts. Such impacts may arise due to the proposed discharge increasing the risk of flooding such as a breach or over topping event and/or environmental damage during high rainfall events and/or otherwise adversely affecting the managed system and the surrounding area.

It is accepted that when considered on an individual basis any adverse impact in terms of flood risk resulting from small developments may be relatively small but it is the piecemeal impact that is important.

In the absence of this information it will be considered that there is insufficient capacity to receive increased volumes or flows resulting from run-off and increased treated effluent without affecting the local water level/flood risk management systems and consent will be refused. If it is proven that the increased volumes/flow rates are acceptable then discussions concerning costs can commence.

Applying for Consent

Whilst AWS may advise that there is capacity within its WRC to accept the foul effluent from the proposed development any discharge of treated effluent, as "new water" and whether attenuated or not, would be an extra burden on our systems and we would require our costs of dealing with the flows to be met.

At present the contribution fee associated with the discharge of treated effluent is based on the procedure utilised when determining new/increased effluent discharges associated with dry weather flows from small private WRC/STPs. Such procedure is reviewed from time to time as are the payments required.

Please note that in addition to the provision of an appropriate FRA, as discussed above, any application for consent would need to meet our minimum validation requirements including the provision of an Environmental Assessment and Management and Maintenance plan together with any relevant supporting information including calculations.

Pre-/Post-Application Process

In view of the issues associated with this matter the Commissioners/Board would encourage the developer to undertake our pre-/post-application discussion process to reach an amicable solution so that objection due to lack of information or concerns about water level/flood risk management, navigation and/or conservation can be avoided.