

National water industry perspective on the implementation of the WFD and Daughter Directive

Jacob Tompkins

Water UK

WFD and daughter directives



- The most sensible piece of integrated water legislation?
- The most expensive piece of water legislation?

A new sort of Directive?

- Overarching rather than detailed
- Based on IRBM rather than components
- Overall ecology rather than chemistry
- Land-based rather than end-of-pipe solutions
- Consultative rather than prescriptive
- Daughter directives to cover all aspects of water

General water industry concerns



- Groundwater is an essential resource for public supply
- There is not enough recognition beyond water and farming sectors
- Groundwater does not feature on the political radar in UK but is highly political in Europe
- End-of-pipe costs as much as catchment protection, but there is no funding mechanism for groundwater protection
- By default, water companies may have to deliver the WFD and GWD.
- Lack of data: a national groundwater database is needed

Specific water industry concerns

- Maintenance of ASR capability (article 11 of WFD)
- Promotion of drinking water protection in GWD
- Implementation of Article 7 of WFD
- Realistic approach to sewer network (changes to Article 6 of GWD)
- Practical actions for other groups
- Standard approach to monitoring within GWD
- No pan-European standards – needs local flexibility
- No specific category of high-status

Water industry: having our cake and eating it?



- Water and wastewater
- Pristine drinking water without over-regulation of the sewerage services – is this a tangible position?

Conclusion

- UK groundwater is likely to be bad
- The Directive will cost money
- The potential benefits are enormous
- The WFD and GWD are about more than water
- The water industry is only one of the actors
- The Government is underestimating the task in hand