



National Rivers Authority
Information Centre
Head Office
Class No
Accession No *ATRB*.....

WATER
ABSTRACTION



NRA

National Rivers Authority

The National Rivers Authority

Anyone who wants to take water from surface or underground sources, or who wishes to impound water, must be licensed by the National Rivers Authority.

The Water Resources Acts 1963-71, the Water Act 1989 and associated regulations contain legislation on the issuing of licences.

Contact the appropriate area office, or our headquarters, at an early stage so that licensing requirements can be incorporated into any scheme design. Our area staff can also give guidance on the procedures for advertising the proposals and applying for the licence.

How to obtain a licence Before making a formal application for a licence the proposals must be advertised, as a public notice, twice in the local press and once in the London Gazette. Regulations lay down the form it should take.

A copy of the notice must also be served on the local water company no later than the date on which it first appears in the local press. This also applies to any navigation, harbour or conservancy authority and any local Internal Drainage Board.

The licence application, map and any plans must be available for public inspection during a 28 day period and representations about the proposal may be made to us.

Applications to take 20 cubic metres per day, or less, may not have to be advertised. These applications should be submitted formally without advertising or service of notice. If we recommend no advertisement, the application will be formally acknowledged with effect from the date of receipt. If advertising is necessary we will return the application form so that the advertising and notification requirements can be complied with.



The National Rivers Authority

What the NRA does We have to check public notices, application form and maps together with any other documents to ensure that they are fully completed. The application will be formally acknowledged and we then have three months from the date of receipt to give our decision on the application. The period may be extended by agreement if required.



We have to take into account:

- a) any representations received about the application
- b) the requirements of the applicant
- c) the existence of any 'protected rights' which may be affected (we cannot grant a licence which will derogate from an existing protected right without the consent of the person entitled to that right)
- d) the effect on flows in rivers and streams, particularly their amenity value, the safeguarding of public health and the requirements of existing users, land drainage, navigation, fisheries and nature conservation.



Any licence granted will normally specify maximum quantities which may be taken per day and year and may contain conditions.

There is a right of appeal to the Secretary of State for the Environment available for applicants who are dissatisfied with our decision on their application.

Charges Abstraction charges are payable when the licence is issued and annually thereafter. They are based on the annual amount authorised by the licence irrespective of whether the water is actually used. There are however special provisions for spray irrigators.

The rate of charge depends on what purpose the water is used for, the amount of water that is returned to its source, the quality of the water taken, the reliability of the source and the season when the water is taken.



ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

NATIONAL LIBRARY &
INFORMATION SERVICE

HEAD OFFICE

Rio House, Waterside Drive,
Aztec West, Almondsbury,
Bristol BS32 4UD

*Severn catchment below River Teme confluence
including River Avon:
Lower Severn Area Office,
Riversmeet House, Newtown Industrial Estate,
Northway Lane, Tewkesbury GL20 7JG.
Telephone: (0684) 850951*

*Severn catchment down to and including
River Teme confluence:
Upper Severn Area Office, Hafren House,
Shelton, Shrewsbury SY3 8BJ.
Telephone: (0743) 272828*

*Trent catchment down to and including
River Dove confluence:
Upper Trent Area Office, Sentinel House,
Wellington Crescent, Fradley Park,
Lichfield WS13 8RR.
Telephone: (0543) 444141*

*Trent catchment below River Dove confluence:
Lower Trent Area Office, Trentside,
Scarrington Road, West Bridgford,
Nottingham NG2 5FA.
Telephone: (0602) 455722*

*Headquarters: Sapphire East, 550 Streetsbrook
Road, Solihull, West Midlands B91 1QT
Telephone: 021-711 2324*



NRA

Severn-Trent Region

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