

# Data Transmission Requirements for Self-Monitoring

An essential component of the Agency's overall monitoring strategy is an effective environmental monitoring and assessment programme. In certain circumstances the environmental monitoring is performed by operators and serves as a source of information for checking compliance with EC Directives, international commitments, and national targets and standards. Certain data are also used for determining financial charges.

The objective of this project was to review and make recommendations on optimal methods of transmitting operator self-monitoring data to the Agency. Business needs information was acquired from internal Agency contacts. Unfortunately, the level of response from Agency staff was below expectation: possibly as a consequence of competing workloads. Similar questions were asked of major external organisations representing operators and this provided useful corroborative information.

The present position is that the Agency has inherited a range of environmental monitoring and surveillance programmes across its range of functional areas, some of which are very specific whereas others are left to interpretation by the supplier of information. Almost all present self-monitoring information is transmitted by paper to operators' own formats. Recommendations are made on the need for clear business objectives, on achieving a best interim solution, convergence, and public access implications.

This R&D Technical Summary ES58 relates to information from R&D Project E1-006 in the following output: **R&D Technical Report E60 "Data Transmission Requirements for Self-Monitoring"**

Internal Status: Released to Regions  
External Status: Public Domain

Project Manager: Richard Saull (NCEDS) August 1998

Research Contractor: QuantiSci

Copies of the Technical Report are available internally from the Regional Information Centre (Library) and externally from the Environment Agency R&D Dissemination Centre, c/o Water Research Council, Frankland Rd, Blagrove, Swindon, Wiltshire SN5 8YF Tel 01793 511711 Fax 01793 514562.

© Environment Agency  
Rio House  
Waterside Drive  
Aztec West  
Almondsbury  
Bristol BS32 4UD

Tel: 01454 624400  
Fax: 01454 624409

R&D Technical Summary ES58