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## **Changing Water Company Look Up Table Limit Assessment**

**Environment Agency**

**RPC rating: validated**

### **Description of proposal**

The quality of treated sewage effluent discharge is principally controlled by setting limits on three sanitary parameters, namely suspended solids, Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and ammonia. The limits of these parameters are set using a Look Up Table (LUT) assessment method.

The emission limit may be exceeded a certain number of times before it is breached and recorded as a fail, depending on samples that have been taken during a 12 month period. The proposal changes the period for LUT assessment from a rolling period of 365 days to a rolling period of 12 full calendar months.

This change in LUT compliance assessment is being made following a challenge from a number of Water and Sewage companies (WaSCs). They argued that a rolling 12 calendar month period rather than a rolling 365 day period was the most appropriate method of assessment.

### **Impacts of proposal**

The regulatory change will require each WaSC to amend its methodology for assessing LUT compliance. There are a total of 10 WaSCs.

This will involve familiarising staff from manager level down to technical level with the change in guidance. This is expected to take 80 hours in total and will cost £13,500 across the 10 WaSCs.

It will also require each WaSC's existing methods of assessment and internal reporting to be amended. This will cost £12,870. Further familiarisation and embedding of the approach will cost an estimated £13,500.

The total transitional costs are therefore expected to be around £40,000; the Agency expects that there will be no ongoing costs over and above those of the existing regime. The RPC is able to validate the equivalent annual net direct cost to business (EANDCB) as zero when rounded to the nearest £100,000 for business impact target reporting purposes. The change is a qualifying regulatory provision.

## Quality of submission

Whilst the cost of the proposal has been clearly analysed, the Regulator Assessment could be improved by including a brief discussion of the broader benefits of the proposal.

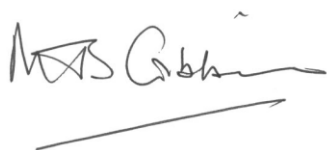
Overall, however, the impacts of the measure are clearly presented, and the evidence and analysis are proportionate

## Departmental assessment

Classification	Qualifying regulatory provision (IN)
Equivalent annual net cost to business (EANCB)	Zero
Business net present value	Not Quantified
Societal net present value	Not Quantified

## RPC assessment

Classification	Qualifying regulatory provision (IN)
EANCB – RPC validated <sup>1</sup>	Zero
Business Impact Target (BIT) Score <sup>1</sup>	Zero



**Michael Gibbons CBE**, Chairman

<sup>1</sup> For reporting purposes, the RPC validates EANCB and BIT score figures to the nearest £100,000.