



Middle Level Commissioners
and Administered / Associated Internal Drainage Boards
Treated effluent discharges from Anglian Water Services
(AWS) Water Recycling Centre (WRC) or from the Public
Sewerage System

In the area under the control of the Middle Level Commissioners, foul water that has been treated by Anglian Water Services (AWS) at their Water Recycling Centres is often discharged, as clean water, into the local drainage system.

Under Sections 106 and 104 of the Water Industry Act 1991 any connection to a public sewer or agreement to construct a public sewer 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 AWS, the consent of the Board is also required for the acceptance of any increased flows or volumes to our system. 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

You will need to provide us with appropriate information concerning the proposed treated effluent discharge from the site. This must include 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 discharge with no adverse impacts. Impacts may include increasing the risk of flooding, environmental damage during high rainfall events and other impacts that might adversely affect the managed system and the surrounding area.

If we do not receive this information, we will consider that there is insufficient capacity to receive increased volumes or flows, and consent will be refused. While 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, it is the piecemeal impact that is important.

Applying for Consent

Please note that in addition to the provision of an appropriate FRA, any application for consent would need to meet our minimum validation requirements which can be found on the 'Consent for Discharge to a Watercourse – Advice' notes on our website.

The contribution fee for the discharge of treated effluent is based on the increased volume or flow per cubic metre discharged per day, or the actual cost of the works needed to deal with the additional flow or volume, whichever is greater.

Pre- / Post-Application Process

We encourage pre- and post- application consultation with this office, so that flood risk management issues can be dealt with at the earliest stage. These discussions will be able to highlight potential areas where Consent will be needed from the Board, and to give an idea as to whether consent would be given. Thinking about flood risk early on should avoid objections due to lack of information or concerns about water level and flood risk management, navigation and / or conservation.

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