

**1. Publication of 2011 Consultation Summary Report**

In October we will publish our report on the results of the 2011 consultation on our review of the GPG. You may recall that a draft of the report was circulated in the papers for the last meeting. The report provides a summary of the comments we received and our responses to the key issues. I will let you know the date of publication when this has been confirmed.

**2. Publication of Supplementary Advice Notes**

As you know, although we have completed a large part of the review, we will not be publishing a revised GPG until we have completed a supplementary consultation on future flow and abstraction standards. However, we feel that there are some elements of the revised guidance which should be released in advance to help both developers and our own permitting staff in designing and approving schemes currently under development. Some changes have been driven by industry developments, such as the 3, 4 and 5 blade Archimedes screw turbines, and others are required by new or amended regulations, such as the Eel Regulations. We have also had to develop our positions on some key issues, based on experience of current permitting.

Over the next few months, therefore, we intend to publish a number of supplementary advice notes to cover a limited number of topics. We will make them available on our website alongside the existing GPG. These will be linked to the content of the existing GPG to make clear what has changed and they will be subsequently be incorporated into revised GPG, when that is published.

I attach a list of the topics [see below] on which we are currently preparing supplementary advice notes. These are all issues which have been discussed previously in the Technical/Drafting sub-group, as proposed text for the revised GPG.

**3. Consultation on flow and abstraction standards**

We are preparing the consultation options for our supplementary consultation on flows. It will take several months to complete the technical work and drafting of the supplementary consultation document to ensure that we put forward credible options. I currently expect that we will consult on four core options, including the CAMS/EFI standards, the approach currently used in Wales for permitting of high head schemes, an option incorporating elements of SEPA's current guidance in Scotland and a further option based on CAMS/EFI in which, under certain circumstances, derogations may apply for more water use. The consultation will provide a broad opportunity for feedback on these, and other approaches that consultees wish to propose.

On this schedule we expect to publish revised Good Practice Guidelines in the third quarter of 2013. This is a realistic timetable given the complexity of the issues, the need to build consensus as far as possible and the finite resource we can devote to this exercise. In the interim the current GPG, with the existing flow and abstraction guidelines, will continue to be used, with the addition of the supplementary advice notes referred to above.

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**Schedule of Supplementary GPG Advice 2012 (draft)**

Topic	Justification
Turbines and screening - 3, 4 & 5 blade Archimedes screw turbines - Undershot waterwheels - Revised screening	Not covered in GPG. Industry demand Not adequately covered in GPG. Specific risks identified with this turbine type Supports implementation of Eel Regulations. Minor change to existing guidance
Competing schemes on one weir	Required to address permitting scenarios. Guidance agreed and in use.
Position on weirs	Addresses operational requests for clarification
Fish passage	Addresses operational requests for clarification