

River Basin Specific Pollutants Workshop, Stresa, Italy 10-11th June 2010

The UK Approach

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Specific Pollutants – What are they?

Specific Pollutants are:

- drawn from Points 1-9 of Annex VIII (2000/60/EC)
- substances identified as being **discharged in significant quantities** into the body of water
- Our interpretation - substances with potential to affect classification status of a water body



- Annex V provided the core approach required
- All EQ Standards derived must :
 - **be subject to peer review and public consultation**
- UK already had an extensive library of EQS values but many of the older standards did not completely satisfy this latter requirement

UK Prioritisation Scheme

- Commenced in 2004 to provide UK wide approach
- Hazard + Exposure = Risk
- EQS developed for substances where Risk = 1 or 2
- Basis for Modelling Strand of the recently completed EU Prioritisation exercise
- ISBN: 978-1-84432-791-1

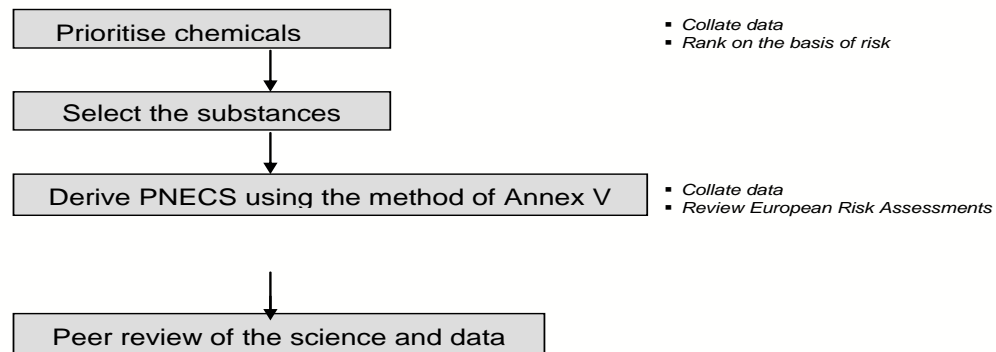
using science to
create a better place

Prioritising chemicals for standard
derivation under Annex VIII of the Water
Framework Directive

Science Report – SC040006/SR

The Core Philosophy

This simple process chart provides the core of the approach used



Do the PNECs meet the criteria? For example:

- What are the levels of uncertainty?
- Is there a suitable method of chemical analysis?
- Do we know what's in the environment?

YES

NO

**Recommend more work
(future reports)**

ACTION NOW

FUTURE ACTIONS

Recommend the proposed PNEC as a new standard
(and start to look at issues of application)

Recommend the continued use of the existing standard under 76/464/EEC as an interim

Produce recommendations for further standards

The proposals are included in this report

For inclusion in a later report

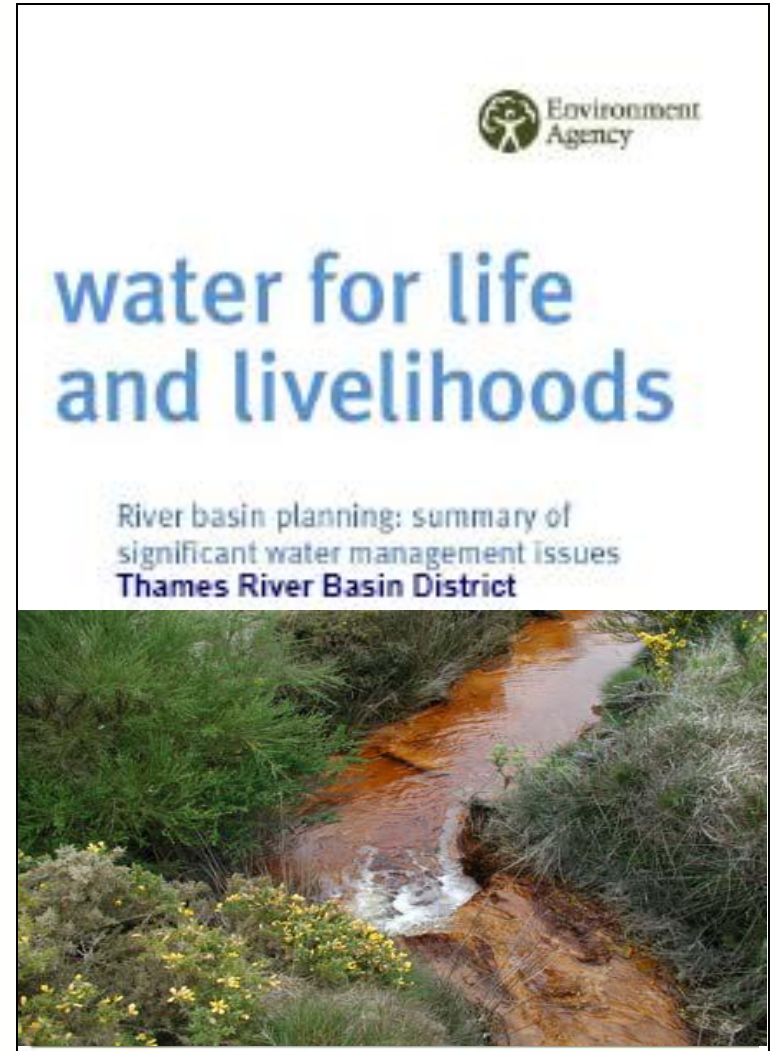
Initial Screening Approach

- While prioritisation work began in 2004 it did not finally deliver until early 2007
- In the intervening period a full review of permits was undertaken to identify an initial “Top 20” pollutants to enable a start to be made



Significant Water Management Issues

- Precursor to River Basin Plans drafted in 2007
- One prepared for each RBD
- Identified the major threats to water quality in each catchment
- These reports important as some issues were clearly regional problems e.g. Metal mining



The Initial List of Specific Pollutants



defra
Department for Environment
Food and Rural Affairs

New EQSs

2,4-D
Ammonia
Chromium VI
Chromium III
Cypermethrin
Diazinon
Dimethoate
Linuron
Mecoprop
Phenol
Toluene

Existing EQSs

2,4-dichlorophenol
Arsenic
Chlorine
Copper
Cyanide
Iron
Permethrin
Zinc

Published
December 2009
to coincide with
RBMPs



What happens next?

- Main focus to revise the remaining existing standards into WFD –proof values for RBP2
- EQS data sheets have also been prepared for a number of additional substances
- A second Specific Pollutants report will be prepared to include all these standards



Lessons learned

- Despite best endeavours some substances still remain parked e.g. Silver
- Key problems :
 - Level of uncertainty , data shortfalls, analytical issues
- Peer Review and Consultation exercises have:
 - given transparency
 - informed the process
 - improved the quality of output
- An informal multilateral group established to share experience and expertise





- Thanks for your attention