

Sent by e-mail

Reference: WQRST/1

Date: 19th June 2020

Dear Stakeholder

Information about the restart of private sewage treatment plant serving premises reopening after COVID-19 shutdown

We are contacting you because you are an organisation that represents businesses or organisations who may rely on their own on-site private sewage treatment plant to treat sewage effluent generated by their business before discharging it to surface water or to ground. The Environment Agency is responsible for the regulation of discharges of sewage effluent into surface water and groundwater in England

It is important that operators of private sewage treatment plant are aware of the need for them to take steps to ensure that their treatment plant is ready to treat sewage flows generated by their business when they reopen after COVID-19 shutdown. If not the discharge from their treatment plant to surface water or to groundwater may be in breach of permit conditions or other regulatory rules and result in pollution.

We have produced a guidance note, attached to this email, which sets out the importance of preparing sewage treatment plant before flows into them resume or increase following COVID-19 shutdowns. We are asking you to share this guidance note with your members. It is aimed at those who operate their own private sewage treatment plant rather than discharge their sewage effluent to public foul sewer.

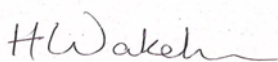
For information on the Environment Agency's regulatory response to COVID-19 visit GOV.UK. Further information on what we do and how we are responding to this situation can be found on our website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency>

If you have any queries please contact Pete Baker, Senior Advisor, at Peter.Baker@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Hard copies of the letter will not be sent. Please can you confirm receipt by email to Kath.Peirce@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely



Helen Wakeham
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