



defra
Department for Environment
Food and Rural Affairs

20 December 2011

Dear Consultee

**The Protection of Waters against Pollution from Agriculture
Consultation on Implementation of the Nitrates Directive in England 2013-2016**

1. I am writing to invite views on our consultation paper on the implementation of the Nitrates Directive in England.

The Nitrates Directive is intended to reduce water pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources. We are required to review our implementation of it every four years. Since its agreement in 1991, implementation in the UK has evolved as we have developed our understanding of the Directive itself and as the evidence base has grown. The last review, in 2007, eventually resulted in the designation of 62% of England as Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) and introduced a strengthened range of measures in the Nitrates Action Programme that farms within NVZs must comply with.

The purpose of this Consultation Paper is three-fold:

- to seek your views on options for revised Action Programme measures to control nitrogen pollution from agricultural sources from 2013 onwards;
- to ask whether you think we should apply these measures within discrete Nitrate Vulnerable Zones or throughout the whole of England; and
- to set out some proposals to rationalise the Water Resources (Control of Pollution) (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) Regulations 2010.

If the measures are applied in discrete Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, this consultation also tells you:

- how we intend to identify those Nitrate Vulnerable Zones; and
- about the process for challenging the designation of land as a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone.

2. The following documents may be found on Defra's website:

- [The Protection of Waters against Pollution from Agriculture Consultation on Implementation of the Nitrates Directive in England 2013-2016](#)
- [Impact Assessment](#) (PDF)
- [Evidence Documents](#)

3. We welcome your views and comments on the proposals. If you wish to obtain a copy of this consultation please contact the address or email details for responses given below.



4. Please send responses to either:

Nitrates Team
Area 2B Ergon House
London
SW1P 2AL

Or email: nitratesdirectiveteam@defra.gsi.gov.uk

5. Responses should be received by **Friday 16 March 2012**.

This consultation is in line with the Code of practice on Consultations. This can be found at

<http://www.berr.gov.uk/policies/bre/consultation-guidance>

6. When this consultation ends, we intend to put a copy of the responses in the Defra library at Ergon House, London. This is so that the public can see them. Also, members of the public may ask for a copy of responses under freedom of information legislation.

7. If you do not want your response - including your name, contact details and any other personal information – to be publicly available, please say so clearly in writing when you send your response to the consultation. Please note, if your computer automatically includes a confidentiality disclaimer, that won't count as a confidentiality request.

8. Please explain why you need to keep details confidential. We will take your reasons into account if someone asks for this information under freedom of information legislation. But, because of the law, we cannot promise that we will always be able to keep those details confidential.

9. We will summarise all responses and place this summary on our website at.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/food-farm/land-manage/nitrates-watercourses/nitrates/>

This summary will include a list of names of organisations that responded but not people's personal names, addresses or other contact details.

10. To see consultation responses and summaries, please contact the library at:

Defra
Information Resource Centre
Lower Ground Floor
Ergon House
17 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3JR

Telephone: 020-7238-6575

Email: defra.library@defra.gsi.gov.uk

11. Please give the library 24 hours' notice. There is a charge for photocopying and postage.
12. If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please address them to Defra Consultation Co-ordinator, Area 7B Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR, or email consultation.coordinator@defra.gsi.gov.uk.
13. Thank you for your help in this matter. If you have any queries please contact us as above.

Yours Faithfully

Nitrates Team
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs