

13th November 2003

Circular L19/03 (WSP)

To each local authority

DRINKING WATER NATIONAL MONITORING PROGRAMME

Seminars on the Requirements and Implementation of the European Communities Drinking Water Regulations (S.I. 439 of 2000)

Background

The Department, as outlined in Circular Letter L1/03 (WSP) dated 13th February 2003, appointed a consortium comprising of Mott Mac Donald Ltd and E.G. Pettit and Company, consulting engineers in late 2002 to assist in the planning and implementation of the Drinking Water National Monitoring Programme (DWNMP). The main objective of this Programme is to secure compliance with national and European drinking water regulatory requirements and to establish uniformity in the sampling, testing and entry of data for drinking water supplies and associated reporting procedures.

The European Communities Drinking Water Regulations (S.I. 439 of 2000) will commence on 1st January 2004. In order to assist local authority personnel involved in drinking water monitoring, it is proposed to hold a series of seminars on the requirements and implementation of the new Regulations and related matters. The Seminars will be held at National Water Services Training Group Regional Centres between Thursday 11th December and Thursday 18th December 2003.

Workshops Schedule

The Seminars will include presentations by the DEHLG, the EPA and the DWNMP consortium and will focus on the requirements and implementation of the new drinking water Regulations. The seminars are scheduled as follows -

- 11th December - Ballincollig, Co. Cork*
- 12th December - Roscrea, Co. Tipperary*
- 15th December - Fingal, Co. Dublin*
- 17th December - Stranorlar, Co. Donegal*
- 18th December - Castlebar, Co. Mayo*

Invitations accompanied by the seminar programme and seeking the nomination of appropriate technical and administrative personnel will issue shortly through the WSNTG Regional Training Centres.

Who Should Attend?

It is suggested given the imminent transfer of Sanitary Authority functions to county level that nominees be selected on a county wide basis including Town Council personnel and/or city as appropriate. Directors of Services should arrange for the attendance of the appropriate technical and administrative staff involved in the management and implementation of the drinking water Regulations.

Additional Information

A draft, updated version of the EPA's Drinking Water Handbook/Guidance (note: current edition known as the "Red Book") is available at www.epa.ie . This document will provide essential guidance and assistance to those involved in implementing the requirements of the new drinking water Regulations and should be considered in advance of attending the seminars.

Mise le meas,

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Water Services Policy Unit

To - Each County and City Manager and Director of Services (Water Services)
Copy to - GCCC, AMAI, CCMA, Ombudsman's Office and Regional Authorities.