



Water Resources Act 1991

1991 CHAPTER 57

PART III

CONTROL OF POLLUTION OF WATER RESOURCES

CHAPTER II

POLLUTION OFFENCES

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C1 Pt. III Chapter II (ss. 85-91) amended (1.5.1994) by [S.I. 1994/1056](#), regs. 1(3), 19, [Sch. 4 Pt. I para. 11](#)

Principal offences

85 Offences of polluting controlled waters.

- (1) A person contravenes this section if he causes or knowingly permits any poisonous, noxious or polluting matter or any ^{FI}... waste matter to enter any controlled waters.
- (2) A person contravenes this section if he causes or knowingly permits any matter, other than trade effluent or sewage effluent, to enter controlled waters by being discharged from a drain or sewer in contravention of a prohibition imposed under section 86 below.
- (3) A person contravenes this section if he causes or knowingly permits any trade effluent or sewage effluent to be discharged—
 - (a) into any controlled waters; or
 - (b) from land in England and Wales, through a pipe, into the sea outside the seaward limits of controlled waters.

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- (4) A person contravenes this section if he causes or knowingly permits any trade effluent or sewage effluent to be discharged, in contravention of any prohibition imposed under section 86 below, from a building or from any fixed plant—
- (a) on to or into any land; or
 - (b) into any waters of a lake or pond which are not inland freshwaters.
- (5) A person contravenes this section if he causes or knowingly permits any matter whatever to enter any inland freshwaters so as to tend (either directly or in combination with other matter which he or another person causes or permits to enter those waters) to impede the proper flow of the waters in a manner leading, or likely to lead, to a substantial aggravation of—
- (a) pollution due to other causes; or
 - (b) the consequences of such pollution.
- (6) Subject to the following provisions of this Chapter, a person who contravenes this section or the conditions of any consent given under this Chapter for the purposes of this section shall be guilty of an offence and liable—
- (a) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months or to a fine not exceeding £20,000 or to both;
 - (b) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or to a fine or to both.
- [^{F2}(7) For the purposes of subsection (1), “waste” in the term “waste matter” includes—
- (a) anything that is waste for the purposes of Directive [2006/12/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council on waste, and that is not excluded from the scope of that Directive by Article 2(1) of that Directive;
 - (b) anything that is waste for the purposes of Directive [2006/21/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council on the management of waste from extractive industries and amending Directive [2004/35/EC](#), and that is not excluded from the scope of that Directive by Article 2(2) of that Directive.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** Word in s. 85(1) repealed (6.4.2008) by [The Environmental Permitting \(England and Wales\) Regulations 2007 \(S.I. 2007/3538\)](#), reg. 1(1)(b), Sch. 21 para. 21(2), **Sch. 23** (with reg. 72, Sch. 4)
- F2** [S. 85\(7\)](#) substituted (7.7.2009) by [Environmental Permitting \(England and Wales\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/1799\)](#), reg. 1, **Sch. 2 para. 2**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C2** S. 85 restricted (13.4.2001) by [S.I. 2001/1478](#), **reg. 3(c)**
- C3** S. 85 applied by [London Docklands Railway Act 1991 \(c. xxiii\)](#), **s. 7(2)(a)**
- C4** S. 85 applied (with modifications) (16.3.1992) by [Avon Weir Act 1992 \(c. v\)](#), **s. 18(6)** (with s. 61)
- C5** S. 85 applied (with modifications) (13.2.1992) by [British Railways Act 1992 \(c. i\)](#), **s. 18(3)(a)**
- C6** S. 85 applied (with modifications) (16.3.1992) by [London Underground Act 1992 \(c.iii\)](#), **s. 12(2)(a)**
- C7** S. 85 applied (with modifications) (16.3.1992) by [Aire and Calder Navigation Act 1992 \(c. iv\)](#), **s. 18(4)(a)**
- C8** S. 85 applied (with modifications) (18.6.1992) by [British Railways \(No. 2\) Act 1992 \(c. xi\)](#), **s. 22(4)(a)**
- C9** S. 85 amended (27.8.1993) by [1993 c. 12, ss. 40, 51\(2\)](#), **Sch. 3 Pt. I para.9** (with s. 46).
- C10** S. 85 applied (with modifications) (29.3.1993) by [1993 c. iv, s. 23\(4\)\(a\)](#) (with ss. 36, 41(5), 44(1)).
- C11** S. 85 applied (with modifications) (27.5.1993) by [1993 c. vii, s. 11\(2\)\(a\)](#) (with ss. 19(2), 29(1)).
- C12** S. 85 applied (with modifications) (1.7.1993) by [1993 c. ix, s. 9\(2\)\(a\)](#) (with ss. 15(2), 24(1)).

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- C13** S. 85 applied (with modifications) (27.7.1993) by 1993 c. xv, s. 22(3)(a) (with s. 44(1)).
S. 85 applied (with modifications) (31.3.1994) by 1994 c. iv, s. 13(4)(a)
S. 85 applied (with modifications) (5.7.1994) by 1994 c. ix, s. 8(2)(a)
S. 85 applied (with modifications) (21.7.1994) by 1994 c. xi, s. 24(3)(a)
S. 85 applied (with modifications) (21.7.1994) by 1994 c. xv, s. 23(3)(a)
S. 85 applied (with modifications) (7.3.1995) by S.I. 1995/519, art. 16(5)
S. 85 applied (with modifications) (28.7.1998) by 1998 c. iv, s. 22(4)(a)
- C14** S. 85 modified (5.11.1993) by 1993 c.42, ss. 2, 19, Sch. 2 para. 10(8), Sch. 6 paras. 5, 8 (with s. 30(1), Sch. 2 para. 9).
- C15** S. 85(1) modified by S.I. 1994/1056, Sch. 4 para. 11 (as inserted (15.5.2006) by The Waste Management (England and Wales) Regulations 2006 (S.I. 2006/937), regs. 1(2), 6(10)(c))

86 Prohibition of certain discharges by notice or regulations.

- (1) For the purposes of section 85 above a discharge of any effluent or other matter is, in relation to any person, in contravention of a prohibition imposed under this section if, subject to the following provisions of this section—
- the [^{F3}Agency] has given that person notice prohibiting him from making or, as the case may be, continuing the discharge; or
 - the [^{F3}Agency] has given that person notice prohibiting him from making or, as the case may be, continuing the discharge unless specified conditions are observed, and those conditions are not observed.
- (2) For the purposes of section 85 above a discharge of any effluent or other matter is also in contravention of a prohibition imposed under this section if the effluent or matter discharged—
- contains a prescribed substance or a prescribed concentration of such a substance; or
 - derives from a prescribed process or from a process involving the use of prescribed substances or the use of such substances in quantities which exceed the prescribed amounts.
- (3) Nothing in subsection (1) above shall authorise the giving of a notice for the purposes of that subsection in respect of discharges from a vessel; and nothing in any regulations made by virtue of subsection (2) above shall require any discharge from a vessel to be treated as a discharge in contravention of a prohibition imposed under this section.
- (4) A notice given for the purposes of subsection (1) above shall expire at such time as may be specified in the notice.
- (5) The time specified for the purposes of subsection (4) above shall not be before the end of the period of three months beginning with the day on which the notice is given, except in a case where the [^{F3}Agency] is satisfied that there is an emergency which requires the prohibition in question to come into force at such time before the end of that period as may be so specified.
- (6) Where, in the case of such a notice for the purposes of subsection (1) above as (but for this subsection) would expire at a time at or after the end of the said period of three months, an application is made before that time for a consent under this Chapter in respect of the discharge to which the notice relates, that notice shall be deemed not to expire until the result of the application becomes final—
- on the grant or withdrawal of the application;

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- (b) on the expiration, without the bringing of an appeal with respect to the decision on the application, of any period prescribed as the period within which any such appeal must be brought; or
- (c) on the withdrawal or determination of any such appeal.

Textual Amendments

F3 Words in s. 86 substituted (subject to other provisions of the amending Act) (1.4.1996) by 1995 c. 25, s. 120(1), **Sch. 22 para. 128** (with ss. 7(6), 115, 117); S.I. 1996/186, **art. 3** (with art. 4)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C16 S. 86 applied (with modifications) (16.3.1992) by **Avon Weir Act 1992 (c. v), s. 18(6)** (with s. 61)

S. 86 applied (with modifications) (7.3.1995) by S.I. 1995/519, **art. 16(5)**

C17 S. 86 amended (27.8.1993) by 1993 c. 12, ss. 40, 51(2), **Sch. 3 Pt. I para. 9** (with s. 46).

87 Discharges into and from public sewers etc.

[^{F4}(1) This section applies for the purpose of determining liability where sewage effluent is discharged as mentioned in subsection (3) or (4) of section 85 above from any sewer or works (“the discharging sewer”) vested in a sewerage undertaker (“the discharging undertaker”).

(1A) If the discharging undertaker did not cause, or knowingly permit, the discharge it shall nevertheless be deemed to have caused the discharge if—

- (a) matter included in the discharge was received by it into the discharging sewer or any other sewer or works vested in it;
- (b) it was bound (either unconditionally or subject to conditions which were observed) to receive that matter into that sewer or works; and
- (c) subsection (1B) below does not apply.

(1B) This subsection applies where the sewage effluent was, before being discharged from the discharging sewer, discharged through a main connection into that sewer or into any other sewer or works vested in the discharging undertaker by another sewerage undertaker (“the sending undertaker”) under an agreement having effect between the discharging undertaker and the sending undertaker under section 110A of the Water Industry Act 1991.

(1C) Where subsection (1B) above applies, the sending undertaker shall be deemed to have caused the discharge if, although it did not cause, or knowingly permit, the sewage effluent to be discharged into the discharging sewer, or into any other sewer or works of the discharging undertaker—

- (a) matter included in the discharge was received by it into a sewer or works vested in it; and
- (b) it was bound (either unconditionally or subject to conditions which were observed) to receive that matter into that sewer or works.]

(2) A sewerage undertaker shall not be guilty of an offence under section 85 above by reason only of the fact that a discharge from a sewer or works vested in the undertaker contravenes conditions of a consent relating to the discharge if—

- (a) the contravention is attributable to a discharge which another person caused or permitted to be made into the sewer or works;

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- (b) the undertaker either was not bound to receive the discharge into the sewer or works or was bound to receive it there subject to conditions which were not observed; and
 - (c) the undertaker could not reasonably have been expected to prevent the discharge into the sewer or works.
- (3) A person shall not be guilty of an offence under section 85 above in respect of a discharge which he caused or permitted to be made into a sewer or works vested in a sewerage undertaker if the undertaker was bound to receive the discharge there either unconditionally or subject to conditions which were observed.
- [^{F5}(4) In this section “main connection” has the same meaning as in section 110A of the Water Industry Act 1991.]

Textual Amendments

- F4** S. 87(1)(1A)(1B)(1C) substituted (1.7.1992) for s. 87(1) by [Competition and Service \(Utilities\) Act 1992 \(c. 43\)](#), [s. 46\(1\)\(3\)](#); Competition and Service (Utilities) Act 1992 (Commencement No. 1) Order 1992, dated 29th May 1992
- F5** S. 87(4) inserted (1.7.1992) by [Competition and Service \(Utilities\) Act 1992 \(c. 43\)](#), [s. 46\(2\)\(3\)](#); Competition and Service (Utilities) Act 1992 (Commencement No. 1) Order 1992, dated 29 May 1992

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C18** S. 87 applied (with modifications) (16.3.1992) by [Avon Weir Act 1992 \(c. v\)](#), [s. 18\(6\)](#) (with s. 61)
S. 87 applied (with modifications) (7.3.1995) by [S.I. 1995/519](#), [art. 16\(5\)](#)
- C19** S. 87(1) amended (27.8.1993) by [1993 c. 12](#), [ss. 40, 51\(2\)](#), [Sch. 3 Pt. I para.9](#) (with s. 46).

88 Defence to principal offences in respect of authorised discharges.

- (1) Subject to the following provisions of this section, a person shall not be guilty of an offence under section 85 above in respect of the entry of any matter into any waters or any discharge if the entry occurs or the discharge is made under and in accordance with, or as a result of any act or omission under and in accordance with—
- (a) a consent given under this Chapter or under Part II of the ^{M1}Control of Pollution Act 1974 (which makes corresponding provision for Scotland);
 - ^{F6}(aa)
 - (b) an authorisation for a prescribed process designated for central control granted under Part I of the ^{M2}Environmental Protection Act 1990;
 - [^{F7}(c) a permit granted under the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2007, except insofar as it authorises a Part B activity within the meaning of those Regulations;]
 - (d) a licence granted under Part II of the ^{M3}Food and Environment Protection Act 1985;
 - (e) section 163 below or section 165 of the ^{M4}Water Industry Act 1991 (discharges for works purposes);
 - (f) any local statutory provision or statutory order which expressly confers power to discharge effluent into water; or
 - (g) any prescribed enactment.
- (2) Schedule 10 to this Act shall have effect, subject to section 91 below, with respect to the making of applications for consents under this Chapter for the purposes of

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subsection (1)(a) above and with respect to the giving, revocation and modification of such consents.

^{F8}(3)

(4) In this section—

^{F9} ...

“statutory order” means—

- (a) any order under section 168 below or section 167 of the Water Industry Act 1991 (compulsory works orders); or
- (b) any order, byelaw, scheme or award made under any other enactment, including an order or scheme confirmed by Parliament or brought into operation in accordance with special parliamentary procedure;

^{F10} ...

Textual Amendments

- F6** S. 88(1)(aa) repealed (6.4.2008) by [The Environmental Permitting \(England and Wales\) Regulations 2007 \(S.I. 2007/3538\)](#), reg. 1(1)(b), Sch. 21 para. 21(4)(a), **Sch. 23** (with reg. 72, Sch. 4)
- F7** S. 88(1)(c) substituted (6.4.2008) by [The Environmental Permitting \(England and Wales\) Regulations 2007 \(S.I. 2007/3538\)](#), reg. 1(1)(b), **Sch. 21 para. 21(4)(b)** (with reg. 72, Sch. 4)
- F8** S. 88(3) repealed (6.4.2008) by [The Environmental Permitting \(England and Wales\) Regulations 2007 \(S.I. 2007/3538\)](#), reg. 1(1)(b), Sch. 21 para. 21(4)(c), **Sch. 23** (with reg. 72, Sch. 4)
- F9** Words in s. 88(4) repealed (6.4.2008) by [The Environmental Permitting \(England and Wales\) Regulations 2007 \(S.I. 2007/3538\)](#), reg. 1(1)(b), Sch. 21 para. 21(4)(d)(i), **Sch. 23** (with reg. 72, Sch. 4)
- F10** Words in s. 88(4) repealed (6.4.2008) by [The Environmental Permitting \(England and Wales\) Regulations 2007 \(S.I. 2007/3538\)](#), reg. 1(1)(b), Sch. 21 para. 21(4)(d)(ii), **Sch. 23** (with reg. 72, Sch. 4)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C20** S. 88 excluded (5.11.1993) by [1993 c. 42, ss. 2, 19, Sch. 2 para. 10\(8\), Sch. 6 paras. 5, 8](#) (with s. 30(1), Sch. 2 para. 9).
- C21** S. 88(1) applied (with modifications) (1.4.1999) by [S.I. 1998/2746](#), **reg. 14(2)**
- C22** S. 88(1) applied (with modifications) (30.10.2009) by [Groundwater \(England and Wales\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/2902\)](#), regs. 1, **14** (with reg. 5)
- C23** S. 88(2) amended (27.8.1993) by [1993 c. 12, ss. 40, 51\(2\)](#), **Sch. 3 Pt. I para. 9** (with s. 46).

Marginal Citations

- M1** 1974 c. 40.
- M2** 1990 c. 43.
- M3** 1985 c. 48.55.
- M4** 1991 c. 56.
- M5** 1990 c. 43.

89 Other defences to principal offences.

- (1) A person shall not be guilty of an offence under section 85 above in respect of the entry of any matter into any waters or any discharge if—
 - (a) the entry is caused or permitted, or the discharge is made, in an emergency in order to avoid danger to life or health;

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- (b) that person takes all such steps as are reasonably practicable in the circumstances for minimising the extent of the entry or discharge and of its polluting effects; and
 - (c) particulars of the entry or discharge are furnished to the ^{F11}Agency] as soon as reasonably practicable after the entry occurs.
- (2) A person shall not be guilty of an offence under section 85 above by reason of his causing or permitting any discharge of trade or sewage effluent from a vessel.
- (3) A person shall not be guilty of an offence under section 85 above by reason only of his permitting water from an abandoned mine ^{F12}or an abandoned part of a mine]to enter controlled waters.
- ^{F13}(3A) Subsection (3) above shall not apply to the owner or former operator of any mine or part of a mine if the mine or part in question became abandoned after 31st December 1999.
- (3B) In determining for the purposes of subsection (3A) above whether a mine or part of a mine became abandoned before, on or after 31st December 1999 in a case where the mine or part has become abandoned on two or more occasions, of which—
- (a) at least one falls on or before that date, and
 - (b) at least one falls after that date,
- the mine or part shall be regarded as becoming abandoned after that date (but without prejudice to the operation of subsection (3) above in relation to that mine or part at, or in relation to, any time before the first of those occasions which falls after that date).
- (3C) Where, immediately before a part of a mine becomes abandoned, that part is the only part of the mine not falling to be regarded as abandoned for the time being, the abandonment of that part shall not be regarded for the purposes of subsection (3A) or (3B) above as constituting the abandonment of the mine, but only of that part of it.]
- (4) A person shall not, otherwise than in respect of the entry of any poisonous, noxious or polluting matter into any controlled waters, be guilty of an offence under section 85 above by reason of his depositing the solid refuse of a mine or quarry on any land so that it falls or is carried into inland freshwaters if—
- (a) he deposits the refuse on the land with the consent of the ^{F11}Agency];
 - (b) no other site for the deposit is reasonably practicable; and
 - (c) he takes all reasonably practicable steps to prevent the refuse from entering those inland freshwaters.
- (5) A highway authority or other person entitled to keep open a drain by virtue of section 100 of the ^{M6}Highways Act 1980 shall not be guilty of an offence under section 85 above by reason of his causing or permitting any discharge to be made from a drain kept open by virtue of that section unless the discharge is made in contravention of a prohibition imposed under section 86 above.
- (6) In this section “mine” and “quarry” have the same meanings as in the ^{M7}Mines and Quarries Act 1954.

Textual Amendments

- F11** Words in s. 89 substituted (subject to other provisions of the amending Act) (1.4.1996) by 1995 c. 25, s. 120(1), **Sch. 22 para. 128** (with ss. 7(6), 115, 117); S.I. 1996/186, **art. 3**

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- F12** Words in s. 89(3) inserted (subject to other provisions of the amending Act) (1.7.1998) by 1995 c. 25, s. 60(1) (with ss. 7(6), 115, 117); S.I. 1998/604, art. 3
- F13** S. 89(3A)-(3C) inserted (subject to other provisions of the amending Act) (1.7.1998) by 1995 c. 25, s. 60(2) (with ss. 7(6), 115, 117); S.I. 1998/604, art. 3

Marginal Citations

- M6** 1980 c. 66.
M7 1954 c. 70.

Offences in connection with deposits and vegetation in rivers

90 Offences in connection with deposits and vegetation in rivers.

- (1) A person shall be guilty of an offence under this section if, without the consent of the [^{F14}Agency], he—
 - (a) removes from any part of the bottom, channel or bed of any inland freshwaters a deposit accumulated by reason of any dam, weir or sluice holding back the waters; and
 - (b) does so by causing the deposit to be carried away in suspension in the waters.
- (2) A person shall be guilty of an offence under this section if, without the consent of the [^{F14}Agency], he—
 - (a) causes or permits a substantial amount of vegetation to be cut or uprooted in any inland freshwaters, or to be cut or uprooted so near to any such waters that it falls into them; and
 - (b) fails to take all reasonable steps to remove the vegetation from those waters.
- (3) A person guilty of an offence under this section shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding level 4 on the standard scale.
- (4) Nothing in subsection (1) above applies to anything done in the exercise of any power conferred by or under any enactment relating to land drainage, flood prevention or navigation.
- (5) In giving a consent for the purposes of this section the [^{F14}Agency] may make the consent subject to such conditions as it considers appropriate.
- (6) The Secretary of State may by regulations provide that any reference to inland freshwaters in subsection (1) or (2) above shall be construed as including a reference to such coastal waters as may be prescribed.

Textual Amendments

- F14** Words in s. 90 substituted (subject to other provisions of the amending Act) (1.4.1996) by 1995 c. 25, s. 120(1), Sch. 22 para. 128 (with ss. 7(6), 115, 117); S.I. 1996/186, art. 3 (with art. 4)

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f^{F15} Consents for the purposes of sections 88 to 90

Textual Amendments

F15 Ss. 90A, 90B and preceding cross-heading inserted (subject to other provisions of the amending Act) (21.11.1996 for certain purposes and 31.12.1996 otherwise) by 1995 c. 25, s. 120(1), **Sch. 22 para. 142** (with ss. 7(6), 115, 117); S.I. 1996/2909, **arts. 2, 3** (with art. 4)

^{F16}90A Applications for consent under section 89 or 90.

- (1) Any application for a consent for the purposes of section 89(4)(a) or 90(1) or (2) above—
 - (a) must be made on a form provided for the purpose by the Agency, and
 - (b) must be advertised in such manner as may be required by regulations made by the Secretary of State,except that paragraph (b) above shall not have effect in the case of an application of any class or description specified in the regulations as being exempt from the requirements of that paragraph.
- (2) The applicant for such a consent must, at the time when he makes his application, provide the Agency—
 - (a) with all such information as it reasonably requires; and
 - (b) with all such information as may be prescribed for the purpose by the Secretary of State.
- (3) The information required by subsection (2) above must be provided either on, or together with, the form mentioned in subsection (1) above.
- (4) The Agency may give the applicant notice requiring him to provide it with all such further information of any description specified in the notice as it may require for the purpose of determining the application.
- (5) If the applicant fails to provide the Agency with any information required under subsection (4) above, the Agency may refuse to proceed with the application or refuse to proceed with it until the information is provided.

Textual Amendments

F16 Ss. 90A, 90B and preceding cross-heading inserted (subject to other provisions of the amending Act) (21.11.1996 for certain purposes and 31.12.1996 otherwise) by 1995 c. 25, s. 120(1), **Sch. 22 para. 142** (with ss. 7(6), 115, 117); S.I. 1996/2909, **arts. 2, 3** (with art. 4)

^{F17}90B Enforcement notices.

- (1) If the Agency is of the opinion that the holder of a relevant consent is contravening any condition of the consent, or is likely to contravene any such condition, the Agency may serve on him a notice (an “enforcement notice”).
- (2) An enforcement notice shall—
 - (a) state that the Agency is of the said opinion;

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- (b) specify the matters constituting the contravention or the matters making it likely that the contravention will arise;
 - (c) specify the steps that must be taken to remedy the contravention or, as the case may be, to remedy the matters making it likely that the contravention will arise; and
 - (d) specify the period within which those steps must be taken.
- (3) Any person who fails to comply with any requirement imposed by an enforcement notice shall be guilty of an offence and liable—
- (a) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months or to a fine not exceeding £20,000 or to both;
 - (b) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or to a fine or to both.
- (4) If the Agency is of the opinion that proceedings for an offence under subsection (3) above would afford an ineffectual remedy against a person who has failed to comply with the requirements of an enforcement notice, the Agency may take proceedings in the High Court for the purpose of securing compliance with the notice.
- (5) The Secretary of State may, if he thinks fit in relation to any person, give to the Agency directions as to whether the Agency should exercise its powers under this section and as to the steps which must be taken.
- (6) In this section—
- “relevant consent” means—
 - (a) a consent for the purposes of section 89(4)(a) or 90(1) or (2) above; or
 - (b) a discharge consent, within the meaning of section 91 below; and
- “the holder”, in relation to a relevant consent, is the person who has the consent in question.]

Textual Amendments

F17 Ss. 90A, 90B and preceding cross-heading inserted (subject to other provisions of the amending Act) (21.11.1996 for certain purposes and 31.12.1996 otherwise) by 1995 c. 25, s. 120(1), **Sch. 22 para. 142** (with ss. 7(6), 115, 117); S.I. 1996/2909, **arts. 2, 3** (with art. 4)

Appeals in respect of consents under Chapter II

91 Appeals in respect of consents under Chapter II.

- (1) This section applies where the [^{F18}Agency], otherwise than in pursuance of a direction of the Secretary of State—
- (a) on an application for a consent under this Chapter for the purposes of section 88(1)(a) above, has refused a consent for any discharges;
 - (b) in giving a discharge consent, has made that consent subject to conditions;
 - (c) has revoked a discharge consent, modified the conditions of any such consent or provided that any such consent which was unconditional shall be subject to conditions;
 - (d) has, for the purposes of paragraph [^{F19}8(1)] or (2) of Schedule 10 to this Act, specified a period in relation to a discharge consent without the agreement of

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- the person who proposes to make, or makes, discharges in pursuance of that consent;
- (e) has refused a consent for the purposes of section 89(4)(a) above for any deposit; ^{F20} . . .
 - (f) he refused a consent for the purposes of section 90 above for the doing of anything by any person or, in giving any such consent, made that consent subject to conditions;
 - [^{F21}(g) has refused a person a variation of any such consent as is mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (f) above or, in allowing any such variation, has made the consent subject to conditions; or
 - (h) has served an enforcement notice on any person.]
- (2) The person, if any, who applied for the consent [^{F22}or variation] in question, or any person whose deposits, discharges or other conduct is or would be authorised by the consent [^{F23}, or the person on whom the enforcement notice was served,] may appeal against the decision to the Secretary of State.
- [^{F24}(2A) This section is subject to section 114 of the 1995 Act (delegation or reference of appeals etc).
- (2B) An appeal under this section shall, if and to the extent required by regulations under subsection (2K) below, be advertised in such manner as may be prescribed by regulations under that subsection.
- (2C) If either party to the appeal so requests or the Secretary of State so decides, an appeal shall be or continue in the form of a hearing (which may, if the person hearing the appeal so decides, be held, or held to any extent, in private).
- (2D) On determining an appeal brought by virtue of any of paragraphs (a) to (g) of subsection (1) above against a decision of the Agency, the Secretary of State—
- (a) may affirm the decision;
 - (b) where the decision was a refusal to grant a consent or a variation of a consent, may direct the Agency to grant the consent or to vary the consent, as the case may be;
 - (c) where the decision was as to the conditions of a consent, may quash all or any of those conditions;
 - (d) where the decision was to revoke a consent, may quash the decision;
 - (e) where the decision relates to a period specified for the purposes of paragraph 8(1) or (2) of Schedule 10 to this Act, may modify any provisions specifying that period;
- and where he exercises any of the powers in paragraphs (b), (c) or (d) above, he may give directions as to the conditions to which the consent is to be subject.
- (2E) On the determination of an appeal brought by virtue of paragraph (h) of subsection (1) above, the Secretary of State may either quash or affirm the enforcement notice and, if he affirms it, may do so either in its original form or with such modifications as he may in the circumstances think fit.
- (2F) Subject to subsection (2G) below, where an appeal is brought by virtue of subsection (1)(c) above against a decision—
- (a) to revoke a discharge consent,
 - (b) to modify the conditions of any such consent, or

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- (c) to provide that any such consent which was unconditional shall be subject to conditions,
the revocation, modification or provision shall not take effect pending the final determination or the withdrawal of the appeal.
- (2G) Subsection (2F) above shall not apply to a decision in the case of which the notice effecting the revocation, modification or provision in question includes a statement that in the opinion of the Agency it is necessary for the purpose of preventing or, where that is not practicable, minimising—
- (a) the entry into controlled waters of any poisonous, noxious or polluting matter or any ^{F25}... waste matter, or
 - (b) harm to human health,
- that that subsection should not apply.
- (2H) Where the decision under appeal is one falling within subsection (2G) above, if, on the application of the holder or former holder of the consent, the Secretary of State or other person determining the appeal determines that the Agency acted unreasonably in excluding the application of subsection (2F) above, then—
- (a) if the appeal is still pending at the end of the day on which the determination is made, subsection (2F) above shall apply to the decision from the end of that day; and
 - (b) the holder or former holder of the consent shall be entitled to recover compensation from the Agency in respect of any loss suffered by him in consequence of the exclusion of the application of that subsection;
- and any dispute as to a person's entitlement to such compensation or as to the amount of it shall be determined by arbitration.
- (2J) Where an appeal is brought under this section against an enforcement notice, the bringing of the appeal shall not have the effect of suspending the operation of the notice.
- (2K) Provision may be made by the Secretary of State by regulations with respect to appeals under this section and in particular—
- (a) as to the period within which and the manner in which appeals are to be brought; and
 - (b) as to the manner in which appeals are to be considered.]
- (8) In this section “discharge consent” means such a consent under this Chapter for any discharges or description of discharges as is given for the purposes of section 88(1) (a) above either on an application for a consent or, by virtue of paragraph ^{F26}] of Schedule 10 to this Act, without such an application having been made.
- ^{F27}(9) In this section, “waste” has the meaning given in section 85(7).]

Textual Amendments

- F18** Words in s. 91 substituted (subject to other provisions of the amending Act) (1.4.1996) by 1995 c. 25, s. 120(1), **Sch. 22 para. 128** (with ss. 7(6), 115, 117); S.I. 1996/186, **art. 3**
- F19** Words in s. 91(1)(d) substituted (subject to other provisions of the amending Act) (21.11.1996 for certain purposes and 31.12.1996 otherwise) by 1995 c. 25, s. 120(1), **Sch. 22 para. 143(1)(a)** (with ss. 7(6), 115, 117); S.I. 1996/2909, **arts. 2, 3** (with art. 4)
- F20** Word in s. 91(1) repealed (1.4.1997) by 1995 c. 25, s. 120(3), **Sch. 24** (with ss. 7(6), 115, 117); S.I. 1996/2560, **art. 2**

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- F21** S. 91(1)(g)(h) added (subject to other provisions of the amending Act) (21.11.1996 for certain purposes and 31.12.1996 otherwise) by 1995 c. 25, s. 120(1), **Sch. 22 para. 143(1)(b)** (with ss. 7(6), 115, 117); S.I. 1996/2909, **arts. 2, 3** (with art. 4)
- F22** Words in s. 91(2) inserted (subject to other provisions of the amending Act) (21.11.1996 for certain purposes and 31.12.1996 otherwise) by 1995 c. 25, s. 120(1), **Sch. 22 para. 143(2)(a)** (with ss. 7(6), 115, 117); S.I. 1996/2909, **arts. 2, 3** (with art. 4)
- F23** Words in s. 91(2) inserted (subject to other provisions of the amending Act) (21.11.1996 for certain purposes and 31.12.1996 otherwise) by 1995 c. 25, s. 120(1), **Sch. 22 para. 143(2)(b)** (with ss. 7(6), 115, 117); S.I. 1996/2909, **arts. 2, 3** (with art. 4)
- F24** S. 91(2A)-(2K) substituted for s. 91(3)-(7) (subject to other provisions of the amending Act) (21.11.1996 for certain purposes and 31.12.1996 otherwise) by 1995 c. 25, s. 120(1), **Sch. 22 para. 143(3)** (with ss. 7(6), 115, 117); S.I. 1996/2909, **arts. 2, 3** (with art. 4)
- F25** Word in s. 91(2G)(a) repealed (6.4.2008) by The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 (S.I. 2007/3538), reg. 1(1)(b), Sch. 21 para. 21(2), **Sch. 23** (with reg. 72, Sch. 4)
- F26** Word in s. 91(8) substituted (subject to other provisions of the amending Act) (21.11.1996 for certain purposes and 31.12.1996 otherwise) by 1995 c. 25, s. 120(1), **Sch. 22 para. 143(4)** (with ss. 7(6), 115, 117); S.I. 1996/2909, **arts. 2, 3** (with art. 4)
- F27** S. 91(9) inserted (6.4.2008) by The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 (S.I. 2007/3538), reg. 1(1)(b), **Sch. 21 para. 21(5)** (with reg. 72, Sch. 4)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C24** S. 91: power to delegate functions conferred (subject to other provisions of the amending Act) (1.4.1996) by 1995 c. 25, s. 114(2)(a)(v) (with ss. 7(6), 115, 117); S.I. 1996/186, **art. 3**

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Changes to legislation:

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