

*These notes refer to the Water Act 2003 (c.37) which
received Royal Assent on 20th November 2003*

WATER ACT 2003

EXPLANATORY NOTES

COMMENTARY ON SECTIONS

Part 3: Miscellaneous

Sections 63 to 65 Drought 353.

Section 64: Drought orders and drought permits: charges.

Current legislation allows a water company to apply to the EA for a drought permit where, by reason of an exceptional shortage of rain, a serious deficiency of water supplies exists. Similar powers enable an application to be made to the Secretary of State/National Assembly for a drought order. A drought order or permit allows a water company to meet that deficiency by allowing it to abstract more water from existing and additional sources. This section enables the Agency to recover from a water company any expenses it incurs in connection with any application by that company for a drought order or permit, including those relating to any local inquiry that is held, and in connection with any such order or permit if it is subsequently issued. This may include, for example, costs of additional environmental monitoring to establish the effects of the permit or order. The section also repeals sections 77(4) and 79A(8) of the WRA to make it clear that sections 125 to 129 do not apply to these charges.