

Environmental permits- Renewable Heat Incentive

The Environment Agency is currently experiencing a significant backlog of permit applications. We are taking action to reduce our permitting timescales across several sectors and taking additional steps to support heat pump applications eligible for the Non Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) which has a closing date of 31 March 2022.

We have made the decision to prioritise the determination of applications across both Water Resources and Water Quality to try to ensure that all proposed schemes which are suitable for permitting/licensing have the necessary permissions in place ahead of the RHI deadline. This is subject to the caveat that if your scheme is deemed to be complex or high-risk, we may need additional time to complete our determination in the same way we would were there not a deadline in place; this position statement similarly does not offer a guarantee that a scheme will be permitted and/or licensed at all and all determinations could still lead to refusal.

Applications submitted must be of good quality and must be administratively and technically complete (including test pump results), by 30 November 2021, allowing us 4 months in which to reach our decision as regulator. For applications received after this time or where we require the submission of additional information after the end of November, we will expedite these but there may be insufficient time to determine applications before 31 March.

If an application has already been submitted but contact has not yet been made by a permitting officer then please email emma.booth@environment-agency.gov.uk with brief details of the scheme and the date of submission.

8 November 2021