

Update

Editorial

Implementing the Radioactive Waste Adviser (RWA) scheme is progressing at a fast pace so we thought it might be useful to produce an update to let you know what is happening. We have been pleased to receive compliments on the level of engagement with stakeholders during the development of the scheme so far and we would like to try and maintain this. If you think this update is helpful we will produce more in the future as well as posting information on the website and publicising what we have published through the usual email channels. If you have any comments please [contact us](#).

Launch of the RWA scheme

The RWA scheme was formally launched at the SRP conference on 24 May when we published the *Environment Agencies' Statement on Radioactive Waste Advisers*. We also published guidance on the Roles and Responsibilities of Permit Holders and RWAs, Suitability and Corporate RWAs. These can be found on the RWA section of the [SEPA website](#).

Radioactive Waste Adviser Approval Board

We have been working on the details of the RWA Approval Board and are aiming to have it set up by the end of July 2011.

Those of us involved in developing the RWA scheme so far will act as the *RWA Approval Board Secretariat* so that we can continue to develop and support the RWA scheme through its implementation and into a stage where it will be "business as usual". The members of the Secretariat are Chris Englefield (EA), Linda Peake (NIEA), Adam Stackhouse (SEPA) and Angela Wright (SEPA).

As well as representation from the environment agencies, members will be invited from the nuclear and non-nuclear industries to ensure that the work of the Approval Board is open, transparent and benefits from the advice of industry. Invitations will be issued via the Nuclear Industries Liaison Group (NILG), the Scottish Non-Nuclear Industries Liaison Group (SNNILG) and the Small Users Liaison Group (SULG).

Update

Grandfather Rights

If you are already working as a Qualified Expert/RWA you are eligible to apply for grandfather rights from 1 July 2011. This means that you can continue to work as a RWA without having to get a certificate from an approved Assessing Body until grandfather rights end on 30 June 2016. A closing date for the application of grandfather rights will be announced with at least six-month's notice.

The Environment Agencies' Statement on RWAs details the information required to apply for grandfather rights and we have produced an application form for you to use to ensure that all the information is submitted. The [application form](#) is available on the website where a new page has been added about [grandfather rights](#).

Once you have submitted your application we will assess it and let you know within four months whether you have been awarded grandfather rights.

Guidance for Assessing Bodies

One of the functions of the Approval Board is to approve the Assessing Bodies that will assess the competence of RWAs. We have produced guidance for applicant Assessing Bodies and this can be found on the [website](#). We will announce when the Approval Board is ready to accept applications from Assessing Bodies.

A final thought

Whilst Chris was busy at the SRP conference launching the RWA scheme, we at SEPA were enjoying a quiet moment relieved that everything had been published on the website and discussing alternative meanings for RWA? Adam came up with **Regulators With Attitude**. Any better suggestions? Please [email](#) and we will publish the best suggestions in the next Update.