



AGGREGATE
INDUSTRIES



Water management plan

2009-2012

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Scope

Aggregate Industries is a major producer and supplier of a wide range of construction and building materials including aggregates, asphalt, ready-mixed concrete and precast building products. The company is committed to the protection and enhancement of the environment and communities in which we operate and has a long established environment and community policy. This company water management plan is an integral element in delivering some of the broader set of environmental aims outlined in our policy.

We recognise our key responsibilities as a custodian of the water environment. We endeavour to manage our operations effectively. However, a change in rainfall intensity and legislative changes following the introduction of the European Water Framework Directive has prompted the company to review its operations. We have engaged with key stakeholders, internally and externally, to ensure that we are well positioned to manage our activities in the future.

In developing this plan for the UK business we have engaged in a consultation in order to understand the needs of the business, threats and expectations posed by the potential impacts of climate change and additional regulatory considerations. This plan considers five key themes which follow from stakeholder dialogue.



Themes

Themes for the Aggregate Industries water management plan 2009-2012

A series of overarching themes has been developed in consultation with a project steering group consisting of both internal and external stakeholders.

Theme 1: Minimise impact and contribute to the conservation of the local environment.

Theme 2: Maintain legal compliance now and in the future.

Theme 3: Prioritised site based management plans.

Theme 4: Raise awareness of the importance of effective water management within the business.

Theme 5: Establish and maintain best practice for water management of core company operations.

Each of these themes provides us with a framework within which to set objectives which will be delivered over the next four years. The themes, however, will carry over into future company plans.

Theme 1: Minimise impact and contribute to the conservation of the local environment

We recognise that we are the custodians of the water environment at many of our operational units and seek to manage our activities in a way that minimises the impact on the local environment. We have an excellent opportunity, particularly at our quarry locations, to contribute to the protection and enhancement of the environment under our direct control. Opportunities are explored through the company biodiversity plan and our contribution to River Basin Management Plans [RBMPs] at a local level.

Objective 1: Contribution to relevant large scale conservation programmes in line with company biodiversity plan 2008-12 (objective 2).



Theme 2: Maintain legal compliance now and in the future

As a business we utilise water in a number of ways; to wash aggregates, for on site dust suppression and use within our production process. We also move significant quantities of water during dewatering as an integral part of the mineral extraction process.

Aggregate Industries expects all its operations to be legally compliant and we work hard to ensure this. The introduction of the EU Water Framework Directive is expected to bring a significant change in the use and management of water in our operations. It is therefore critical to ensure that we are aware of and respond appropriately to future legislative changes and have input into existing and future consultation processes.

Objective 2: Develop working relationship with key regulators at national and local level.

Work with regulators at national and local level to identify short-term and longer-term changes required to maintain legal compliance in an evolving regulatory environment.

Objective 3: Input into consultation on Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS) and River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) at a regional level.

We also recognise that current arrangements for the treatment and management of water at some operational units will need to be improved as part of our continual improvement and investment programme, or redesigned and updated in order to cope with more intense rainfall patterns attributed to climate change and to meet new stricter limits on water quality in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive. Other themes and objectives outlined in this plan are expected to contribute to this.



Theme 3: Prioritised site based management plans

In order to manage and focus our resources effectively we have prioritised our operations in terms of potential risk to the water environment. As a consequence we have categorised our operations as high, medium and low risk. The business has committed to developing, implementing and maintaining effective site based water management plans at all locations as part of a phased implementation. We have already defined our high risk sites and will report progress annually in our sustainability report.

Objective 4: Implement, maintain and report progress at all other locations by end of 2009.

The implementation of these plans is critical to achieve theme 1 above.

Theme 4: Raise awareness of the importance of effective water management within the business

Environmental concerns are many and varied, although over the past year climate change has come to dominate the public conscience and policy debate. We believe it is important that employees are informed of the significance of water as a resource, the potential impacts of climate change, changes in legislation and importance of effective management of water on site for a sustainable environment and sustainable business. During 2009 we will be introducing a series of training and awareness initiatives to support the development and implementation of this company plan.

Objective 5: To raise awareness of the key issues to all operational staff by the end of 2009.

Objective 6: To reduce the use of potable water in our manufacturing processes by 25% (based on 2008 data) by 2012.

Theme 5: Establish and maintain best practice for water management for company operations

The communication of this plan and raising awareness amongst our directors, managers and operational staff of the key issues faced by the business is critical in achieving our objectives and improving our performance. In doing so it is also important that attention is given to the development and revision of company standards and best practice which can be implemented with consistency across the business. We will be working with our water management steering group, external consultants, regulators and others from within the industry to develop what we consider to be leading edge best practice.

Objective 7: Develop company best practice procedures and guidance by the end of 2009 - communicate, implement and maintain.

Review

The implementation of this company plan and its suitability will be subject to regular review by a water management steering group. The steering group consists of key representatives from within the businesses supported by independent external advisors.



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