

PH5a

**Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Local Development Plan
Examination**

**Post Hearing Correspondence
between the Inspector and
the Council/Others**

<http://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/business/17460.asp>

**Post Hearing Correspondence between the Inspector and the
Council/Others**

From: Vincent Maher
Sent: Fri 14/09/2012 13:48
To: Jeanette John
Subject: RESPONSE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY ON PH2

Note to the Environment Agency (EA)

The Inspector has received the EA's comments on the Council's MAC changes to the Blaenau Gwent LDP. He would like the EA to confirm if they believe MAC S30 is sound or not and, if it is unsound, to clarify why.

The EA have deleted the term groundwater and wish it to be replaced with water bodies. The EA is invited to clarify why this change is necessary for reasons of soundness having regard to national policy and other pertinent considerations. Would the term water bodies cover groundwater?

MAC S30 Appendix 2

Page 17 - **To ensure the protection, preservation and enhancement of the natural environment**, in order to facilitate effective monitoring, the Monitoring Source Indicator (Source Data) number 5 should relate to all water bodies not just groundwater. Therefore, number 5 should be amended to "**Percentage of ~~groundwater~~ water bodies of good status**".

From: Claire McCordkindale
Sent: Tue 18/09/2012 10:57
To: Jeanette John
Subject: RESPONSE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY ON PH2

In response to Note from the Inspector dated 14 September 2012, we offer the following comments:

Our comments on MAC S30 are relevant to soundness test CE3 (clear mechanisms for implementation and monitoring). The provisions that we have sought to have included in the LDP in respect of water quality are necessary because of the requirements of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) (2000/60/EC). As highlighted in Para 7.7 of the MAC version of the LDP (i.e.

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the text of MAC C23), the WFD relates to groundwaters and surface waters. One of the objectives of the WFD is for all water bodies (i.e. surface and groundwaters) to achieve good status by 2015. Our concern with the indicator, as worded in MAC S30, is that because it only refers to groundwater, it excludes surface waters; therefore no information would be collated on the status of Blaenau Gwent's surface waters - the rivers and lakes. Considering the poor quality of Blaenau Gwent's surface waters at present (e.g. all five rivers are currently failing to achieve good status), this would be a significant omission and would not enable the water quality aspects of policy SP10 to be monitored adequately.

We trust this provides the clarity the Inspector is seeking.

Regards

Claire