
Notice of intention to change: PR19 Outcome performance commitment appendices – Reference in biosolids performance commitment definitions

Background

Three companies: United Utilities; Yorkshire Water; and Dŵr Cymru (Welsh Water) each have a PR19 performance commitment (PC) concerning the treatment of sewage sludge to a standard before recycling it as a quality agricultural product or biosolids.¹ In each case, the company's performance commitment definition makes reference to the 'Biosolids Assurance Scheme' (BAS) issue 4, a standard published by Assured Biosolids Ltd (ABL).

ABL revised the standard to drive improvements in business processes through introducing more stringent controls to lower the environmental risk of sludge treatment and recycling to agriculture and published it as the new [BAS Standard Issue 5](#) in July 2020. This new standard superseded the BAS issue 4 and is effective from October 2020. United Utilities highlighted this change to us and asked that we update their biosolids PC.

Changes to third party materials referenced in performance commitments may be made in certain circumstances, in line with Annex 2 of the companies' PR19 Outcomes PC appendices.

We have reviewed the evidence and consider that this change is beneficial to agricultural and food chain stakeholders as it provides additional reassurance on the biosolids aspects. In these circumstances, we consider that it is appropriate to change the reference from Issue 4 to Issue 5 of the BAS standard for the three affected companies.

Next steps

If you would like to raise views in relation to this notice, please send these to OfwatPandO@ofwat.gov.uk by 9 August 2021.

Subject to considering views raised, we expect to change the performance commitment definitions of the three affected companies to refer to BAS issue 5. This change will be effective from 1 April 2021.

¹ PR19UUW_C09-BR; PR19YKY_40; and PR19WSH_En7