

Abstract

Blastfurnace Slag and The Environment The View of a Modern Regulator.

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The Environment Agency is the strongest environmental regulator in Europe. It is currently under-going fundamental restructuring so that it can better deliver environmental improvement and engage more effectively with its stakeholders. This restructuring will also allow it to become more consistent and more risk-based in its regulation, targeting effort and resources at the most difficult issues.

As part of this risk based approach to protecting the environment an example is given where the Agency, in conjunction with the trade organisation, Quarry Products Association, produced a good practice guidance note on the use of blastfurnace slag as a secondary aggregate. The content of the note and the history of its production is discussed.

The paper concludes with a brief look at the future of environmental regulation and, in particular, the coming of the Water Framework Directive. It concentrates of what this will mean for both the Agency and those it regulates.

Biographical Details

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I am a chemist and freshwater biologist by training, holding degrees in environmental chemistry and applied hydrobiology. I have worked in water pollution control for many years, firstly with the water authorities, then with the National Rivers Authority and now with the Environment Agency.

At present I am based at Head Office in Bristol and my role is associated with policy making in relation to diffuse and intermittent water pollution issues.

Ingress of polluting substances from many types of land use fall into this category of water pollution and dealing with the policy implications of them forms a significant and challenging part of my workload.