

QUESTION TO BE ASKED OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY 10th JUNE 2003, BY THE DEPUTY OF ST. JOHN

Question

As the Committee with responsibility for administering the Water Pollution (Jersey) Law 2000, would the President advise members whether a permit has been issued for the discharge of waste into the stream below Le Mourier Reservoir from the new di-nitrification plant at that reservoir, and, if so, would he confirm whether the concentration of effluent discharged into the stream is harmful to humans, wild animals or domestic pets that drink from the stream?

Answer

No, a discharge permit has not been issued under the Water Pollution (Jersey) Law 2000, for the discharge from the new de-nitrification plant at Le Mourier Reservoir.

Officers of the Water Resources Section, who administer the Water Pollution (Jersey) Law 2000 on behalf of the Committee are in discussions with the Jersey New Waterworks Company and are investigating the discharge under the provisions of that Law.

I am advised that, at this time, there is insufficient scientific data available to the Water Resources Section to determine whether the discharge is polluting the stream. Following on-site meetings with the Company, a comprehensive monitoring programme of the stream and discharge was agreed and has now been implemented. When sufficient data has been collected and analysed (in about 2-3 months), it will be possible to determine the impact of the discharge on the water quality of the stream.

Until then, it is difficult for me to say with certainty whether on not drinking from the stream would be harmful to humans, wild animals or domestic pets. However, I am advised that analytical results to date of nitrate and nitrite concentrations indicate that there is no immediate risk to animals drinking from the stream.