



River Basin Planning

The European Water Framework Directive (WFD) has established new and better ways of protecting and improving rivers, lakes, groundwater, estuaries and coastal waters. These include a single method of managing water based on river basin planning.

This new concept of integrated river basin management looks at the whole river basin and will have an impact on groundwater, rivers, lakes and coastal waters up to one nautical mile from the coastline.

The Authority is represented on four of the larger district liaison panels covering Scotland, Northumbria, Humber and West Wales, which are responsible for producing distinctive plans for each of those River Basin Districts.

"Each River Basin Panel is tailored to reflect the water issues in that particular basin and the Coal Authority has a presence in those areas where the impact of mining is a major consideration," says Stuart Rolley, Head of Minewater Development with the Authority.

"By 2009, there will be a River Basin District Plan produced for each district which will detail all that will happen within the following six-year cycle. There will be an ongoing review of the Plan so that it is always a dynamic document," he adds.

