

THE WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE AND HYDROPOWER - A SWEDISH PERSPECTIVE

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HYDROPOWER REGULATION

- New Swedish legislation on January 1, 2019
 - Mandatory reconsiderations of all hydropower permits
 - Approx. 2 100 active hydropower plants and dams
 - Must comply with WFD environmental objectives
 - According to ECJ ruling in “Weser-case” (C-461/13)
 - Reconsiderations according to a National plan



NATIONAL PLAN FOR HYDROPOWER

- Plan adopted by Government on June 25, 2020
 - 20-year plan for reconsideration of permits – detailed timetable (river basin-based)
 - Guidance on balancing of “interests”
 - Environment – energy supply (and cultural environment)
 - Minimum effect on electricity frequency regulation, low impact on electricity production (1.5 TWh/2.3 %)
 - Guidance for WFD application of Environmental Objectives and Heavily Modified Water Bodies



THE WFD PERSPECTIVE

- Water District Authorities decide on WFD Environmental Objectives
 - Currently reviewing Heavily Modified Water Bodies and Environmental Objectives
 - Timetable and considerations according to National plan
 - Deliver first conclusions and proposals in March 2021
- Key issues in setting Environmental Objectives
 - Need for application of Less Stringent Objectives?
 - Minimum effect on frequency regulation
 - relevant for approx. 250-300 large scale facilities
 - Low impact on electricity production
 - mainly large scale facilities
 - Adaption rather than removal



IN PRACTICE

- Some ongoing or recent activities:
 - Spearhead projects in Bothnian Sea Water District
 - Ljungan River – river basin approach, large scale hydropower, partly high aquatic values, different operators, regional and national effects
 - Dalälven River – same as above, complex Natura 2000 issues
 - Both are joint operators-authorities projects
 - In other Water Districts
 - Several projects in smaller catchments with small scale hydropower – cultural environment issues, little effect on frequency regulation or energy production, local effects



SOME CHALLENGES

- North vs. south
- Energy supply or cultural environment
- National – regional – local perspectives
- Self determination vs. common interests
- Time and scale – 20 years and assessments in several steps and on different levels

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING!

