

Secretary of State for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
Water Resources Management Plan Consultation
Area 3D Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3JR

31 July 2013

Dear Secretary of State

Wessex Water – Draft Water Resources Management Plan

Wessex Water published its draft Water Resources Management Plan (dWRMP) on 8 May 2013 and this letter summarises our views of the draft plan. These views are based on a high-level review of the processes described in the plan against the requirements of the Water Resources Planning Guideline. They are also without prejudice to any subsequent decisions that we may make in connection with the business plan that the company is scheduled to provide to us later this year as part of the price control review process.

In summary:

- Wessex Water’s plan includes evidence of good engagement with customers and we welcome the company contacting potential suppliers of bulk water, and
- if the company takes forward an option in its final plan to address the consequences of a reduction in licence volumes for the Malmesbury group of sources, it should explain and justify the method it has used to choose between options.

1. Incorporation of customers’ views

Wessex Water’s dWRMP includes evidence of good engagement with customers and use of willingness to pay surveys in the development of the draft plan.

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2. Baseline supply-demand balance

Wessex Water has included the impact of confirmed and likely sustainable reductions in its supply forecast.

We note that the company is investigating options to address the consequences of a reduction in licence volumes for the Malmesbury group of sources. The company is in discussions with the Environment Agency over these options. Should the company take forward an option in its final plan it should explain and justify the method it has used to choose between options, including justifying the value attributed to its surplus water.

3. Options appraisal

We welcome that Wessex Water contacted all neighbouring companies about potential bulk supply exports at the pre-consultation stage.

4. Final planning solution and scenario testing

We have not identified any particular concerns in relation to this section of Wessex Water's draft plan.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Walker

Director – Wholesale Price Control Review