

Welsh Government
Water Resources Management Plans Consultation
Water Policy Branch
3rd Floor
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

11 September 2013

Dear Sir / Madam

Albion Water– Draft Water Resources Management Plan

Albion Water published its draft Water Resources Management Plan (dWRMP) in June 2013 and this letter summarises our views of that 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. These views are also without prejudice to any subsequent decisions that we may make in connection with the price control review process for Albion Water.

In summary, Albion Water needs to further consider the following areas in finalising its dWRMP:

- explaining what issues it discussed with organisations in its pre-consultation phase;
- clarifying whether it consulted its customers over its demand forecast; and
- incorporating the change to its appointed area into its final plan.

1. Incorporation of customers' views

Albion Water states that it undertook pre-consultation by letter and in meetings with certain organisations in relation to its Deeside site. It should provide further information on these consultations in its final plan.

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2. Baseline supply-demand balance

For its Deeside site Albion Water envisages that its customers' water demand will remain flat over the planning period. While the draft plan mentions "likely outturn industrial demand" it is not completely clear from the draft plan whether Albion Water consulted its customers on this demand forecast.

On 20 August 2013, we granted Albion Water a variation to its appointed area to supply water and sewerage services to a site in Rissington, Gloucestershire. Albion Water should incorporate its new area into its final WRMP as appropriate.

3. Options appraisal

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

4. Final planning solution and scenario testing

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

Yours faithfully

Andrew Walker
Director – Wholesale Price Control Review