

December 2020

National framework Senior Steering Group summary December 2020

The national framework senior steering group held its ninth meeting in December 2020. It was our third virtual meeting and was chaired by Jean Spencer. This meeting focused on the risks, issues and mitigations prepared by the regional coordination group.

SSG first heard from the regulators and Defra. RAPID explained the progress it had made in its work programme, including the bulk supply contracts and pricing project and the modelling work.

Defra updated the group on its work, including the endorsement of the National Infrastructure Commissions recommendation to ensure plans are in place to increase **drought resilience to 1:500 in England**. The water efficiency work is expected to re-start from 1 February following a pause due to the coronavirus and EU exit work.

The Environment Agency highlighted its plan to publish the water resources planning guideline in January and the plans to **update the water stress maps** early next year.

Each regional group then explained the progress it had made since the previous meeting and the challenges ahead. In February each regional group will publish its next resource position statement and the first draft of each regional plan will be shared for a reconciliation process by the end of August.

Energy UK presented its latest scenarios, concentrating on the water needs of hydrogen and carbon capture and storage. It identified 5 clusters around the UK and explained how it was engaging with each regional group.

The full risk log was presented to the SSG, with five selected to be discussed in more detail:

- Alignment across the regional plans
- Alignment with WRMPs and the price review
- Implementation and commercial agreements
- Environment
- Multi-sector planning and delivery

The group discussed the mitigations and identified key areas of interest to look at in further detail next year.

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To close the meeting Jean Spencer presented the milestones and policy decisions that will need to be taken in 2021.

Month	Activity
January	Water resources planning guideline published
February	Regional resource position statements published
March	Senior steering group meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resource position - Linking flood management and water resources
June	Senior steering group meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demand management focus - Linking water resources and agriculture ELMS - Update on commercial work projects
July	Strategic schemes - standard gate 1
August	Draft regional plans shared for reconciliation process
September	Strategic schemes - accelerated gate 2
October	Senior steering group meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of draft plans and update on reconciliation
January 2022	Draft regional plans consultation