

From: RAPID
Subject: FW: Objection to Havant Thicket Reservoir Raw Water Transfer / Effluent Recycling Proposal

From: Havant Climate Alliance <havclimate@gmail.com>
Sent: 11 April 2022 17:20
To: RAPID <RAPID@ofwat.gov.uk>
Subject: Objection to Havant Thicket Reservoir Raw Water Transfer / Effluent Recycling Proposal

A response from Havant Climate Alliance

Option B4. Putting recycled water into Havant Thicket Reservoir.

We do not support the proposal to pump recycled effluent into Havant Thicket Reservoir as it stands. We are concerned about the safety aspects, the cost, the carbon footprint, the quality of water and the effect on the environment. both in and around the reservoir.

We accept that recycled water may be needed in future but it should not be considered until there has been a great deal more study and research into its impact. We would like to be assured of the need and the robustness of the approved process.

We do not believe that this is a cost-effective option and are very concerned about the carbon footprint of the project. The plan for effluent recycling uses the same energy, carbon and chemical technology as the desalination process which has recently been rejected.

As energy costs rise, we would anticipate increased charges to customers.

We have concerns about the build-up of nitrates in Havant Thicket Reservoir and the likelihood of algal blooms and eutrophication. We are concerned that the by-product of the wastewater treatment will still be discharged into the Solent and our sensitive coastal waters. So, there is likely to be an impact on our coastal Special Protection Area and downstream water quality.

We are told that the proportion of recycled effluent in the reservoir will be very low, but would need cast-iron guarantees that this would be the case.

We are concerned that the water quality monitoring is not being progressed urgently and will not take place until after the summer and the results available only in 2023.

We do not believe Southern Water has done an adequate appraisal of the options or consulted in local population effectively. The modelling and impact assessments need to be undertaken urgently and need to consider both smaller and larger volumes, before any decision is made to proceed. We believe that local residents will be very concerned about this project and we are told that the water will taste different and so may lead to more purchases of wasteful water in bottles.

Option B2 Pipeline to transfer raw reservoir waste 35 km to Otterbourne

Again, we are concerned about the costs of this project, the impact on the environment and the high carbon footprint.

We do not believe that this proposal is in line with Southern Water's and the government's commitment to net zero at a time of climate emergency.

We think it is important to explore other options especially recycling water in the Southampton area which we gather is where there is the greatest need. We would suggest that sending recycled water from both Budds Farm and Peel Common WWTWs to a Buffer Lake and on for treatment at Otterbourne WSW is a more acceptable option in environmental and long-term costs.

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Havant Climate Alliance

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