

From: RAPID
Subject: strategic regional water resource solutions accelerated gate two draft decision for havant thicket raw water transfer

From: [redacted]
Sent: 07 April 2022 13:01
To: RAPID <RAPID@ofwat.gov.uk>
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: strategic regional water resource solutions accelerated gate two draft decision for havant thicket raw water transfer

Dear Sir/Madam,

With reference to the above scheme.

I was very concerned to learn that Southern Water are proposing to pump treated effluent to the Havant Thicket Reservoir which I only found out by chance. I receive my domestic water supply from Portsmouth Water and live in relative close proximity to the new raw water reservoir site. I also find it hard to believe an option to install a 35km pipeline from the reservoir to Otterbourne treatment works is being considered. There should be a full public consultation to Portsmouth Water customers to gauge their concerns.

I list below my main concerns

1. I believe customers will be horrified when they find out they are drinking recycled effluent.
2. I also believe the people who supported the Havant Thicket Reservoir would not support the effluent recycling scheme, as they believe it would have an adverse impact on the reservoir and detract from the benefits that will be provided.
3. The environmental impact on the reservoir is not acceptable and has not been considered in full, especially the impact of the deterioration in water quality. Southern Water's own report has indicated that the treatment process only achieves 82% recovery. That leaves a very significant 18% of material in the sewage to get through and be pumped into the reservoir daily!
4. It may taste different, and this will put people off drinking tap water which has wider societal impacts. For example, on health, and if people stop drinking tap water and turn to bottled water there are financial impacts for those least able to afford it, if people turn to sugary drinks instead there are other ancillary concerns.
5. It has very high energy and chemical use/ costs. I am concerned about the huge amount of energy and chemicals needed to operate this plant and pump the water more than 35km to Otterbourne. This will have a huge environmental impact. With energy and chemical prices souring this will be a burden to customers for the next 70 years(+) and Ofwat should recognise this and not support the scheme as it does not represent best value.
6. It has a very high carbon cost. I am concerned about the huge carbon footprint of the construction of the plant and pipelines, plus the ongoing very large carbon use associated with operating the plant and pumping the water more than 35km. This cannot be the right solution at a time of climate emergency, when the industry has committed to net zero operational carbon by 2030, and the government to net zero by 2050. This means that customers will also be burdened with future offsetting costs which are not necessary if a more appropriate sustainable solution was selected

now. Have the offsetting costs been built into the cost profile? Surely the nation/ region should be planning now for solutions that work with climate change not against it.

7. The original reservoir only got local support and planning permission on the basis that a number of key wider environmental and societal benefits would be provided, and these also contributed to making it a best value scheme. Those benefits will be significantly reduced.

Regards

[redacted]

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