



Thames Water Utilities Limited  
Clear Water Court  
Vastern Road  
Reading  
Berkshire  
RG1 8DB

By hand

23 September 2022

## Thames Water Utilities Limited – application for a drought permit under section 79A of the Water Resources Act 1991

To whom it may concern,

Please find herewith a copy of the notice of Thames Water Utilities Limited's application for a drought permit under section 79A of the Water Resources Act 1991 and the application documents.

Thames Water Utilities Limited is applying for a temporary variation of licence number 28/39/16/78 for a period of six months to abstract water from the River Thames at Farmoor.

Kindly note that some aspects of the information supporting the application may alter during the consultation period, which is open from the 9.00am on 26th September 2022 to 5.00pm on 3rd October 2022. If you wish to review any alterations please contact Steve Tuck, Abstraction & Transfers Specialist, [steve.tuck@thameswater.co.uk](mailto:steve.tuck@thameswater.co.uk) Mobile 07747641123 at Thames Water Utilities Limited.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "C. Ross".

Cathryn Ross  
Strategy & External Affairs Director  
Thames Water Utilities Limited

Enclosures:

1. Notice
2. Application documents

# **THAMES WATER UTILITIES LIMITED**

## **Application for a Drought Permit**

### **Section 79A of the WATER RESOURCES ACT 1991**

TAKE NOTICE that due to a serious water shortage in Oxfordshire, part of Wiltshire (centring on Swindon) and part of Gloucestershire (centring on Cirencester) caused by an exceptional shortage of rain, Thames Water Utilities Limited of Clearwater Court, Vastern Road, Reading RG1 8DB is applying to the Environment Agency for a drought permit under section 79A of the Water Resources Act 1991.

The proposed drought permit will involve a temporary variation of licence number 28/39/16/78 for a period of six months to abstract water from the River Thames at Farmoor, National Grid Reference SP 43 06 at revised quantities/rates. The variation (if granted) will allow us to take an additional 30,900 cubic metres of water per day during periods when the daily flow of the river Thames is less than 136,380 cubic metres. The total abstraction afforded by the drought permit would be a maximum of 3,750 cubic metres per hour and 90,000 cubic metres per day when the daily flow of the river Thames is less than 136,380 cubic metres.

The anticipated effect of the drought permit, if granted, will be to increase the amount of water available for abstraction into Farmoor reservoir in order to reduce the rate of fall in reservoir levels. This will help to safeguard longer term supplies for public use. The effect on the river will be a reduction in flow downstream of Farmoor. We do not anticipate this will have any adverse effect on downstream users. In consultation with the Environment Agency, we have carried out comprehensive environmental assessments into the potential impact of the proposed permit.

In order to understand the impacts of the drought permit a programme of monitoring has been agreed with the Environment Agency and Natural England and will be implemented before the drought permit is granted, during operation of the drought permit and following cessation of the drought permit. Key environmental parameters included in the monitoring programme comprise river flow, designated sites, protected habitats, water quality and ecology (including assessment of potential impacts on Invasive Non-Native species). In addition mitigation measures will be implemented if the monitoring indicates it is necessary. This mitigation may include oxygenation of the River Thames and its tributaries if needed as well as targeted rescues of fish where necessary.

Anyone may inspect the proposals, free of charge, at (a) Thames Water Utilities Limited, Farmoor Fishery, Farmoor Reservoir, Cumnor Road, Farmoor, Oxon OX2 9NS, (b) Thames Water Utilities Limited, Clearwater Court, Vastern Road, Reading RG1 8DB, (c) The Environment Agency, Red Kite House, Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford, Wallingford OX10 8BD during normal working hours for 7 days from 9.00am

on 26th September until 5.00pm on Monday 3rd October 2022. The documents will also be available on our website at <https://www.thameswater.co.uk/about-us/regulation/temporary-drought-permit>

Objections may be made to the Environment Agency at Water Resources Permitting Support Centre, Environment Agency, Quadrant 2, 99 Parkway Avenue, Parkway Business Park, Sheffield S9 4WF or by email [PSC-WaterResources@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:PSC-WaterResources@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Objections can be made from 9.00am on 26th September with a deadline by 5.00pm on Monday 3rd October 2022.

Cathryn Ross  
Strategy & External Affairs Director  
Thames Water Utilities Limited

26 September 2022