

Appendix J. Liaison with the Environment Agency and Data Exchange

APPENDIX J. LIAISON WITH THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY AND DATA EXCHANGE

J1 Drought Liaison

We maintain a close working relationship with the Environment Agency, both during normal operating periods and during drought periods. We routinely liaise on water resource issues with the Environment Agency. As the onset of drought becomes apparent through the routine monitoring of the water resource situation the event procedures described in Section 4 of our Drought Plan will be implemented.

Proper implementation of the drought protocols means that in the early stages of a drought, regular and systematic liaison with the Environment Agency is a vital part of the procedure. The continuous water situation monitoring and the use of the protocols will enable the early identification of drought risk and this would provide the trigger (Drought Event Level 1, DEL1) for formal drought liaison with the Environment Agency to be instigated; liaison with other Environment Agency areas would also be undertaken, if appropriate.

Drought liaison is set up at various levels for the South East:

1. Managing Director (MD) level meetings
2. Technical drought meetings
3. Operation drought meetings

The MD level meetings cover high level strategic drought issues and key drought management decisions are made during these meetings.

During a drought technical drought meetings take place between the Environment Agency and all the water supply companies in the South East and are designed to address issues of common interest. These meetings may include Natural England or other parties as considered necessary.

We also liaise regularly with Defra during periods of drought to keep them apprised of the developing situation. Therefore, Defra can be given early warning of any potential need for specific measures such as the potential need for Drought Orders.

We also liaise with the Environment Agency at an operational control level. This liaison is required to manage the impact of our abstractions on issues that are managed by the Environment Agency, for example, navigation. This liaison takes place on a regular basis during which the respective TWUL and Environment Agency Control Centres exchange information and agree abstraction rates in relation to navigation requirements. our liaison is led by our Water Control Manager.

J2 Data Exchange - Water Resources data

Data exchange between TWUL and the Environment Agency is a critical requirement for water resource management and becomes even more vital during drought. This data requirement is increased under the drought management protocol. To ensure that we are able to provide water situation updates we require that the drought reporting, and model predictions undertaken by the Environment Agency is provided on a regular basis. The Environment Agency measure and record the principal components of the hydrometric cycle and are therefore they are the principal providers of hydrometric for use in water resources and drought management.

The Environment Agency provides us with a range of the hydrometric data, as shown in Table J1 below, and further explained in Appendix D.

Table 1 J1 Breakdown of Weekly Data Supplied by the Environment Agency

Name	Purpose
Gauged & Natural Flows	Updating river flows in WSR/WARMS/WRRRA
Natural Flows [Lee flows (7 days) plus Farmoor, Sutton Courtenay & Kingston (2 days)]	Updating river flows in WSR/WARMS/WRRRA
ThamesArea Flows	Updating river flows in WSR/WARMS/WRRRA
Cray & Darent Flows	Updating river flows in WSR
Flow Constraints	Updating flow constraints in WSR
SESMM Data (Includes 12 Station Rainfall)	Updating rainfall & SMDs in WSR/WARMS/WRRRA
Key Wells	Updating groundwater in WSR/WRRRA
OBH Levels (mAOD) (Riverhead and Rose & Crown)	Updating GW in WSR/WRRRA
Catchment Situation	Assessing latest situation

WSR = Water Situation Report

WRRRA - Water Resources Risk Assessment

WARMS = WARMS Model

The Environment Agency also sends hydrological data on a 3 to 6-monthly basis, which is used to update our Water Resource Modelling System (WARMS, see Appendix I) and various other models.

We provide information on our abstractions and reservoir water storage to the Environment Agency on a regular basis, including updates of reservoir storage on the Lower Thames Control Diagram (LTCD) and Farmoor Control Diagram (FCD). The lower Thames abstraction data is provided on a daily basis during drought periods.