

5.0 Drought Permit Application – Consultation

March 2023



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1 BACKGROUND

South West Water is applying for a Drought Permit under Section 79A of the Water Resources Act 1911 (“WRA 1991”) to use, with temporary amendments, the abstraction licence SW/047/0051/003 as dated 7 February 2023, relating to the abstraction from the inland water known as the River Lyd at Lifton, Devon for the purposes of public water supply.

1.1 The drought permit application documents

This document is part of a suite of documents which form the application for the drought permit as set out in Table 1. The structure and contents of the documents follows the requirements set out in **Appendix E** of the EA guidance on drought permits and drought orders (“**The Drought Permit Guidance**”), which was issued in 2019 and revised in 2021, with some adjustments to the sequence of documents / sections.

Table 1 Document structure for drought permit application

Documents: Drought Permit Proposals		
1	1.0	Description of Proposals
	1.1	Draft Permit
	1.2	Drinking Water Services Report 2023 – Operations Supporting Evidence
	1.3	Appendix 1 River Lyd Abstraction Licence
	1.4	Appendix 2 National Security Notice
2	2.0	Statement of Reasons
	2.1	Case for Exceptional Shortage of Rain (ESoR)
3	3.0	Environmental Assessment Report
4	4.0	Evidence the Company has followed its Drought Plan
	4.1	Appendix 1 Enhanced Media Campaign
	4.2	Appendix 2 Leakage and pressure management
5	5.0	Consultation Process
	5.1	Appendix 1 Formal Notice

2 PUBLIC NOTICES

2.1 Publications

A Public Notice is to be published in the following publications on 20 March 2023:

- ❖ London Gazette
- ❖ Western Morning News
- ❖ Daily Express

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The notice informs the general public about the drought permit application and provides details of where the application documents may be accessed: either online, or in hard copy at three locations, and sets out how representations or objections may be made to the drought permit.

The notice is included in **Document 5.1**.

3 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

3.1 Invitees to online stakeholder engagement session

Westcountry Rivers Trust
Environment Agency
Tamar Catchment Partnership
Premier Food
Devon County Council
West Devon Borough Council
Tamar and Tributaries Fishing Association
South West Rivers Association
The Arundell Arms
Lifton Parish Council
Stowford Parish Council
Lewdown Group Parish Council
Bridestow Parish Council
Lydford Parish Council
Milton Abbot Parish Council
Brentor Parish Council
Broadwoodwiger Parish Council

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On the 7 March, all stakeholders listed in the table above were notified by email of the intent to apply for a drought permit to adapt how we manage water in the Roadford Water Resource Zone (“WRZ”), following the period of prolonged dry weather.

The email invited stakeholders to attend a briefing event and Q&A session on 13 March 2023 at 4pm, which will explain the terms of the proposed permit and the need for the same, in order to increase understanding and alleviate any concerns.

Stakeholders were encouraged to register for the session on Eventbrite.

3.2 Notices to protected persons

Protected persons are those protected under any Licence order or enactment. There are not any in this instance.

4 DESCRIPTION OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

Paper copies of the drought permit application documents are available for public inspection for seven days from 20 March 2023 at the following locations:

- ❖ South West Water Head Office, Peninsula House, Rydon Lane, Exeter, EX2 7HR (9am – 5pm Mon-Fri).
- ❖ Sir John Moore House, Omaha Road, Bodmin, Cornwall, PL31 1EB (9.30am – 4.30pm Mon-Fri).
- ❖ Lifton Post Office, Fore Street, Lifton, Devon, PL16 0AA (9am – 5.30pm Mon-Fri & Sat 9am-12.30pm)
- ❖ The documents are also available on the South West Water website at: <https://www.southwestwater.co.uk/advice-and-services/save-water/hosepipeban/>

5 CONSULTATION COMMENTS

The online briefing session for stakeholders was held on Monday 13 March at 4pm.

Stakeholders present were presented with the proposal and level of environmental monitoring. Comments from stakeholders related to measurement and monitoring of fish during the drought permit proposed period. Furthermore, stakeholders recognised the Roadford WRZ supply risk for 2023.

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A second briefing will be scheduled, to update interested parties on the proposals contained in the final application. A note of the meeting can be supplied to the Environment Agency on request.

6 DETAILS OF OBJECTIONS

No formal objections have been raised at the time this document was published.
