

Advancing the Reservoir to 2037 to satisfy Affinity needs

(points in answering Q3 on the Online Response Form)

Comments:

- The needs of Affinity are not (according to their draft Water Resources Management Plan) large enough to need the 100 Million litres per day until the 2050s. There is no justification for a source of this size until around 2050.
- Given that 80 million litres of the 100 million that Affinity say they need will be returned to the Thames as treated water, (available to existing London reservoirs) are you seriously suggesting that you build this huge reservoir now, to provide 20 million litres a day in 2050?
- We support the push to relieve the Chalk-streams of their burden to supply water to Affinity, but to do this with the reservoir implies waiting for the longest lead time of any project.
If the chalk-streams should be taken out of supply earlier, it makes more sense to use a shorter-delivery project, such as:
 - a modest-size Re-use Plant; or
 - the 40 Million litres per day Raw Water supply which RWE are proposing to set up at Didcot Power Station – although in the early stages, there is ample time for this to be implemented in the early 2030s; or
 - the first stage of the Severn-Thames Transfer. An Unsupported Transfer could yield around 120 Million litres per day, more than enough for Affinity.
- I note that you have refused requests to put all the costs (Thames Water + Affinity) in a single paper, so that consumers and the local politicians can assess the costs correctly. This is unacceptable.
- I also note, that by bringing the reservoir in early, you have created a huge (240 Million litres per day) surplus, which you can sell on to other customers.
Your first draft plan justified the reservoir by assuming demands from other water companies.
As these companies' plans matured over Summer, their requests have been withdrawn. Even Affinity is now considering other sources of supply. It seems that the other companies have moved forward without you and your plan has failed to catch up.
- In summary, you have not actually got any other customers – so this act seems to me to be one of pure commercial speculation.