Planning Inspectorate
Arolygiaeth Gynllunio

Hearing Transcript

Project:	Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project
Hearing:	Recording of Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1) – Part 4
Date:	12 November 2026

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FULL TRANSCRIPT (with timecode)

00:00:09:28 - 00:00:26:08
It's now three o'clock. This issue this specific hearing is resumed. We are going to go for the action points, and after that, the hearing will close. So I propose the applicant to share what they have recorded.

00:00:32:07 - 00:00:40:00
Thank you, ma'am. Robby Owen for the applicant. I'll go through our record of the actions. So number one,

00:00:42:13 - 00:01:04:13
this is obviously our wording, people can chip in. Applicant to provide a deadline one, the full monitoring results of the pilot treatment plant at Buds Farm Water Treatment Works, which form as part of ES volume two, that's ES appendix nineteen point one one, haven't picked it reservoir water quality modeling.

00:01:08:23 - 00:01:16:04
So full monitoring results. And there was the related action, I think, of the data being in a spreadsheet form.

00:01:17:20 - 00:01:36:04
Correct. It's defined for what matters. We did request yesterday both the BUDS farm and the PIL common data because in the summary report, Southern Water emerging the two datasets to give them data which they're saying is representative. So we would like the data for both and include the detection limits this time, please.

00:01:37:02 - 00:01:38:27
Are you able to accommodate that?

00:01:40:20 - 00:01:41:28
Yes, we can do that.

00:01:42:01 - 00:01:42:25
Thank you. Thank you.

00:01:54:01 - 00:02:13:09
Then we've got a second action applicant to provide at deadline one a further explanation of the methodology that informed the parameters that were reported on in ES volume two appendix nineteen point eleven in terms of water quality modeling at the reservoir.

00:02:18:07 - 00:02:31:15
That's correct. If you include any information about difficulty of sampling of certain chemicals, you've mentioned sending them off to other countries, that would be appreciated as well.

00:02:32:12 - 00:02:32:27
Certainly.

00:02:38:00 - 00:02:52:23
Okay. The next action, I think all all of the above, we can just lump in as action one. So action two, again, on the applicant to respond to deadline one to submissions from ports of water in relation to the

00:02:54:11 - 00:03:01:12
implications of retained flexibility for the works at Bethampton Springs and how they've been assessed.

00:03:03:09 - 00:03:16:20
So the need for the flexibility, the assessment carried out, and I think we could also, for good measure, include in that how the necessary protections during construction will be achieved.

00:03:24:03 - 00:03:39:17
Thirdly, for the applicant to provide a deadline one, details of the past, present and proposed future engagement with the community and consumers about concerns in relation to the perception of recycled water,

00:03:41:10 - 00:03:48:29
including when consumers will be advised that they would be receiving water generated by this project.

00:04:01:19 - 00:04:25:27
So the exact wording is how and at what stage will consumers be informed that they may receive water derived from the scheme, including whether the areas or supplied zones that could receive that water will be identified, and how will concerns about drinking water safety and the change in source be addressed? And water matters community, please.

00:04:27:01 - 00:04:36:14
Thank you. Tracy Vijney, Water Matters. Could we just ask that, that applies to Portsmouth Water and Southern Water supply zones as both companies will receive the water?

00:04:38:28 - 00:04:40:04
I think that's reasonable.

00:04:40:29 - 00:04:42:22
Sorry. Could you just repeat that, please?

00:04:42:29 - 00:04:54:19
Yes. Instead of it just being Southern Water Supply Zone's customers, it should also apply to the Portsmouth Water Supply Zone customers because Portsmouth Water customers will also receive the recycled water from the reservoir.

00:04:56:11 - 00:05:00:23
So have you engaged with them over time and also in the future?

00:05:00:25 - 00:05:02:06
We we will cover that. Yes.

00:05:02:08 - 00:05:02:23
Thank you.

00:05:13:28 - 00:05:30:05
The next action was my suggestion that we should provide a deadline one, what I called a glossary of correct terminologies to use when discussing water recycling so that we can all then speak the same language.

00:05:32:22 - 00:05:34:22
Yes. Appreciate it.

00:05:34:24 - 00:05:59:17
Next action, again, on the applicant to provide a deadline one, an updated version of the other consents and licenses position statement, that's APP055, to reflect the fact that we have commenced the pre application process with the Environment Agency in relation to environmental permit in relation to the discharge permit into the reservoir and obstruction licensing.

00:06:10:27 - 00:06:42:26
I'm just being told that, in fact, current version of that statement does already reflect the pre application process for the discharge permit, so we just update it for the abstraction licensing aspect. The next action on the applicant is to provide a note that we discussed before lunch on the interface between regulation the regulation interface with Ofwat, Rapid and the drinking water inspectorate, and indeed, I think the Roan Agency.

00:06:49:29 - 00:07:18:12
There's a slight overlap with the next action, which I think is an action I've noted as being one for the Environment Agency, the Water Services Regulation Authority, so Ofwat and RAPID. And my note of

that is they are to provide written submissions on the scope of their role in relation to the regulation framework that applies to the project. So that's pretty similar to the previous action, I think.

00:07:18:14 - 00:07:25:05
Yes, that's correct. One is on the applicant, one is on the regulators. So we have all of those submissions.

00:07:25:07 - 00:07:27:14
It'll be interesting to see if we say the same thing.

00:07:29:26 - 00:07:36:04
Next action on Portsmouth Water is to provide written submissions,

00:07:38:07 - 00:07:41:18
which Mr. Then went on later to give us a taster of

00:07:43:16 - 00:07:53:07
on its position on the proposed provisions in the draft DCO that modify, I think, Article five and Schedule eight was the scope of that. Mr. Philbert's going

00:07:53:09 - 00:08:16:10
to come in. I'm Harold Philbert on behalf of Portsmouth Water. Although I think the action related at that stage is simply to Schedule eight, what I was going to say in any event is that our written representations will deal in detail with both of those sets of provisions. And what I was going to propose is we simply flag in our cover letter that that's where we've dealt with the action point.

00:08:18:19 - 00:08:19:23
I think that's reasonable.

00:08:20:27 - 00:08:33:23
Thank you. And the final action, ma'am, I have, which we suggest following discussion during the break is that I think you and

00:08:36:10 - 00:08:49:16
everybody will benefit from us providing a summary of what BSA one says about the right to water in the reservoir and also

00:08:51:08 - 00:09:20:20
a summary sort of underneath that, if you like, as to how we understand that's been taken forward into BSA2 discussions. It's the point we finished up on before the break. And I think would you find it helpful just to in the context of Southern Water funding the reservoir, to understand why, therefore, those provisions were agreed in BSA one back in twenty twenty one, I think it was,

00:09:22:12 - 00:09:32:05
and how those provisions, so far as we understand, have been agreed in the context with possibly one or two small issues still to be ironed out in the context of BSA two.

00:09:33:23 - 00:09:36:21
That concludes my notes of the actions. I hope I've captured everything.

00:09:39:06 - 00:09:47:23
You have. And as far as my list is concerned, are there any additional actions that haven't been captured?

00:09:49:04 - 00:10:23:17
You, madam. Harry Woodford on behalf of Portsmouth Water. Just in relation to that last one, which is a new point, it strikes me as given that we're the other party to BSA one and the other party in the negotiations on BSA two, you might find it more helpful if that is either an agreed document or at least if arrangements are put in place for it to be shared with us in draft so as to minimize the scope for he says, she says, and you have two different accounts of the same thing in two different documents.

00:10:23:26 - 00:10:36:08
Because otherwise, we will be addressing that in our written representations, but I don't think it will help you if we don't put our heads together to try and find something which is reasonably and neutrally expressed that captures those points.

00:10:36:17 - 00:10:44:10
Sounds reasonable. So the action will be for a joint statement to be submitted into the examination. Is that something that can be done?

00:10:46:25 - 00:10:49:26
Robbie, over to the applicant. Yes, that's agreed on our side.

00:10:51:07 - 00:10:52:01
Thank you.

00:10:52:27 - 00:10:55:28
Are there any other comments in relation to action points?

00:10:57:04 - 00:11:15:13
Environment Agency. Thank you. Sierra Clark, Environment agency. Very short one. We just wanted to check that you'd asked us to prepare submissions on the environment agency's role. We intended to do that as part of our written representation and just to check that you're satisfied that provided we do that, we don't have to produce a separate separate document.

00:11:15:20 - 00:11:43:19
Yes. We are satisfied that the written representation will cover it. On that note, if you have spoken today, it would assist us if you could please provide a written version of your submissions by deadline one, which is twenty third of November twenty twenty six. The recording of this hearing will be published on our website as soon as is practicable after the hearing. And thank you everyone for your participation.

00:11:45:28 - 00:11:49:11
Okay. Just before I close, I will allow this.

00:11:56:25 - 00:12:23:00
You very much, everybody. Yeah. My name is Nick Walton. I'm a water quality water consultant for nearly fifty years, having worked in over thirty different countries worldwide. I may be the only person in this room who has direct operational experience of running complicated water desalination of water treatment plants in many countries over the world. Anyone else has, then please show.

00:12:24:23 - 00:12:25:15
Okay.

00:12:27:05 - 00:12:44:24
I want to make three points. One is the pressing need for the water coming our way to increase the volumes of water for our depleted test and itching rivers, which Martin has already covered. And we feel that you're getting lost and bogged down in so much of the detail here.

00:12:44:26 - 00:13:01:21
So sorry. I'm sorry to interrupt, but there have been opportunities to make comments along those lines earlier in this hearing. So if you could put whatever you're going to say in writing a deadline one, that would be appreciated.

00:13:01:25 - 00:13:05:13
Can I make a couple more points? No. K.

00:13:05:15 - 00:13:07:28
We... We've passed that point in this hearing.

00:13:11:04 - 00:13:23:11
So thank you everyone for your participations and for the submissions that we'll receive after the hearing for q and a advance. It's now thirteen past three, and this hearing is now closed.