

PRESS RELEASE

2nd May 2008



Embargoed until 12 noon 2nd May

PORTSMOUTH WATER INVITES COMMENTS ON ITS WATER RESOURCES PLANS FOR THE NEXT 25 YEARS

Portsmouth Water has a 150 year history of supplying water to Portsmouth and the surrounding areas. Recent research has shown that maintaining the security of supplies is the highest priority for our customers.

Today Portsmouth water has published its Draft Plan which sets out an ambitious programme to maintain supplies over the next 25 years.

Technical Director, Andy Neve, says "Whilst demand is projected to rise from both existing households and those new households proposed in the South East Plan, we are having to cut back upon abstraction to maintain the important wetland habitats in South East Hampshire and West Sussex. As a result we have a 'twin-track' package of measures that we are proposing for the next 25 years.

To help curb the rise in demand we plan to

- Implement a 10% reduction in network leakage levels.
- Implement a programme of installing meters to all households by 2035.
- Promote a new water efficiency initiative to all households from 2010 onwards.

However, these measures won't be enough to maintain supplies and we will also need to:

- Install a new plant at our Farlington Water Treatment Works to recover the waste water used in the filter washing process.
- Develop new boreholes at Lavant and Brickkiln, near Chichester, to achieve the licensed abstraction.
- Develop the Havant Thicket Winter Storage Reservoir for completion by 2021.

All of our proposals have been developed using a costing model which minimises the costs to customers and the environment as well as carbon emissions."

The Consultation Period runs from 2nd May to 25th July and representations can be made to the Secretary of State. Having considered the representation and the directions of the Secretary of State, the Company will publish a Final Plan in July 2009.

For further details contact Mike Dannatt on 023 9249 9888.

Ends

Notes to Editors

Portsmouth Water is one of the oldest water companies in the country, having been incorporated in 1857.

OUR WATER SOURCES

Our water, of high quality, is derived from the chalk of the South Downs and is abstracted from wells, boreholes, springs and the River Itchen.

The Springs at Havant and Bedhampton are thought to be the largest group of springs used for public supplies in Europe.

STATISTICS

We serve 286,000 homes and businesses in an area covering 868 square kilometres (335 square miles) from the River Meon in Hampshire to the River Arun in West Sussex.

Every day we supply around 180 million litres (40 million gallons) of water to a population of over 640,000 people at the lowest cost in England and Wales.

OUR DISTRIBUTION NETWORK

Water is supplied to our customers through a network of over 3,200 kilometres (1,990 miles) of underground water mains and more than 280,000 individual service connections, all of which are continuously maintained by our distribution staff.