

THAMES WATER'S PLAN



GARD'S ALTERNATIVES

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THAMES WATER RELEASE DRAFT PLAN FOR CONSULTATION - MEGA-RESERVOIR IS 'FAVOURED PRIORITY IN THE LONGER TERM' (2040s)

On 12th February, Thames Water released their draft Water Resources Management Plan for 2019-2024 (dWRMP19) for public consultation. In spite of the Inspector's ruling at the 2010 Public Inquiry which concluded that Thames Water's Upper Thames Reservoir (UTR) plan was not fit for purpose and ruled out a 100 Million cubic metre reservoir, Thames are now back with a plan centred around an *even bigger reservoir (50% bigger!)* to be constructed by the mid 2040s.

Thames Water's plans cover the period up to the 2080s and beyond. Their plan to meet the rising demand in the South-East (90% of which comes from London's increased population) involves, in order..

- a plan to reduce leakage by about 15% by the late 2020s – this has been forced on them by OFWAT and public pressure, but Thames Water are only aiming at the minimum to comply with OFWAT's targets – *even after all their work, Thames will still have the worst leakage of all UK water companies;*
- construction and operation of an 'indirect re-use' scheme to divert some of the treated waste water from London from its normal discharge into the Thames Estuary, and pipe it upstream into the Thames above Teddington Weir, from where it can be abstracted to fill the London reservoirs (*this is a version of the scheme put forward by GARD in 2008, and rubbished by Thames Water at the time!*) - this scheme would be operating by around d 2030;
- construction of the Abingdon (UTR) mega-reservoir to be started around 2030, and finished around 2043;.
- construction of a large water Re-use plant at Beckton (London) around 2065. in and around London.

The following options do not appear in Thames Water's favoured plan (in spite of being proposed by expert opinion):.

- construction of more Desalination plants for Thames Estuary water;
- periodic water transfer from North Wales and the River Severn to the River Thames on a top up basis, as required in times of shortage.

GARD's VEIW

We believe strongly, after thorough professional investigation, that there is no need for an Abingdon reservoir of any size.

Firstly, GARD questions Thames Water's statistics for population increase. Thames have devised their own method for calculating population growth – this somehow shows a population in the London area in 2100 which is more than 2 Million above official government predictions. The water needs of 2 Million, completely fictional, people are around 300 Million litres per day – conveniently more or less equal to the predicted output of the Abingdon reservoir!

Secondly, GARD is appalled about the unambitious targets which Thames Water have for leakage reduction and water efficiency. The figures show that if Thames Water targetted achieving the leakage rate of the industry leaders (Southern Water and Anglian Water) and aimed their efficiency measures at the same target as Southern Water, then *TW could save the equivalent per day of the water supplied by TWO mega-reservoirs!*

Thirdly, GARD's researches show that the reservoir will not be resilient against long droughts. The reservoir will be unable to supply the targetted water for London if a drought occurs which stretches over two or more successive winters (as happened as recently as 2011 and 2012).

GARD's researches show that **there is enough water for London's increased population needs, even with climate change taken into account from the following environmentally sustainable sources:**

- bulk transfer of raw water from River Severn to the River Thames, the least costly option;
- increased water re-use in the London area;
- more water desalination plants in the Thames; and, very importantly.

All these sources can supply enough water in future climate change and prolonged drought scenarios. In particular, transfer of water from the Severn by both Severn Trent and the United Utilities' Vyrnwy reservoir in N Wales have not yet been properly addressed by Thames Water. These will have the major advantage of eliminating any dependency on supplies from the over-abstracted R Thames flow or from ground water within TW's region.

ABOUT GARD (Group Against Reservoir Development). GARD is a group of individuals whose aim is to identify and promote viable solutions to meet the future needs of water users in the Thames Water Region. **GARD is advised by eminent water industry practitioners.** Our committee is composed of voluntary, unpaid members with technical experience, each of whom is free from any political or vested interests. **Click here for names of committee members and advisors.**

LATEST NEWS

GARD Reservoir briefings given to Local Residents - 6th March 2018 - GARD Chairman, Derek Stork, has recently given briefings to local residents about the fallacies and dangers in Thames Water's plans. - [CLICK TO READ MORE](#)

Oxford Mail report on Thames Water's new plans: "ACT NOW TO BLOCK RESERVOIR" - 21st February 2018 - [CLICK TO READ ARTICLE](#)

"Report by GARD shows that the Abingdon Reservoir would not be resilient against prolonged droughts and could be empty if a succession of dry winters occurred." [CLICK TO READ MORE](#)

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SEE THE MAP



The previously proposed Abingdon reservoir layout.

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