

**SOUTHERN WATER SERVICES LIMITED - APPLICATION FOR  
A DROUGHT PERMIT AT THE SURFACE WATER  
ABSTRACTION ON THE RIVER TEST**

**Date: XX Xxxx 2022**

**Drought Permit**

**Drought Permit – Modify existing abstraction**

- Section 79A Water Resources Act 1991 as amended by the Environment Act 1995

The Environment Agency grants this Drought Permit to:

Southern Water Services Limited (“the Water Company”)  
Southern House  
Yeoman Road  
Worthing  
West Sussex  
BN13 3NX

Company registration number 02366670

This Drought Permit authorises the Water Company to abstract water pursuant to Licence No. 11/42/18.16/546 but with provisions of that Licence suspended and/or modified as set out in the Schedule to this Drought Permit. This Drought Permit commences from the effective date shown below and shall remain in force until the date of expiry shown below.

All other provisions of the said Licence remain in full force and effect.

Signed	Date of issue.....XX XXXXX XXXX
	Date effective .....XX XXXXX XXXX
Deputy Director – Solent and South Downs	Date of expiry.....XX XXXXX XXXX (date not exceeding 6 months from the date of becoming effective)
Environment Agency Area Address...	

## **DROUGHT PERMIT SCHEDULE TO LICENCE 11/42/18.16/546**

### **1. CESSATION OF ABSTRACTION**

Upon the Water Company confirming in writing to the Environment Agency its intention to operate to this Drought Permit and the Environment Agency confirming in writing receipt of such notice;

#### 1.1 Until [six months from date of granting of the Drought Permit]

Further Condition 9.1 of Licence number, 11/42/18.16/546 shall be modified by the following:

Subject to 9.6 – 9.8 below, no abstraction shall take place when the combined flow (“The Total Test Flow”, TTF) in the River Test as gauged by the Agency at Testwood Bridge and at its flow gauging stations at Test Back Carrier and Conagar Bridge is equal to or less than 265,000 cubic metres per day as may be notified by the Agency. The Agency’s said gauging of the flow shall be conclusive.

### **2. MAXIMUM DAILY ABSTRACTION**

#### 2.1 Until [six months from date of granting of the Drought Permit]

Condition 6.1 “Maximum Quantity of Water to be Abstracted” of Licence number, 11/42/18.16/546 shall be deleted in its entirety and the following text shall be inserted:

Subject to Further Condition 9.6 – 9.8 of Licence number, 11/42/18.16/546 the maximum daily abstraction volume shall be restricted to 80,000 cubic metres per day.

### **3. CESSATION OF DROUGHT PERMIT**

Condition 6.1 and Further Condition 9.1 of Licence number, 11/42/18.16/546 shall resume on either

- (i) the day following the natural end of this Drought Permit six months from date of granting of the Drought Permit

or,

- (ii) when the Total Test Flow recovers to and persists above a flow of 500,000 cubic metres per day for at least 21 consecutive days.

### **4. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING**

4.1 The Water Company shall ensure the environmental monitoring set out in the Monitoring and Mitigation Plan accompanying the application for this drought permit (the “DP MMP”) is undertaken and, resulting information will be summarised to the Environment Agency fortnightly.

4.2 The Water Company shall immediately notify the Environment Agency on 0800 80 70 60 and by email to the EA’s nominated contacts if dissolved oxygen measurements fall below the thresholds for the durations set in the DP MMP. The Water Company shall report which station this occurs at and, report the simultaneous data from each of the other installed stations.

**Commented [WD1]:** EA, is this still how you would like reporting?

- 4.2.1 Upon the condition of 2.2 being encountered the Water Company shall ensure monitoring of fish distress and ecological stress in line with the commitments given in DP MMP , to the method specified in the DP MMP.
- 4.2.2 The Water Company will notify the Environment Agency when dissolved oxygen measurements at said site have returned above the threshold and for the duration as nominated in the DP MMP.
- 4.3 The Water Company will immediately report to the Environment Agency on 0800 80 70 60 and by email, any finding of fish in distress or other indication of ecological stress that it finds by implementation of the Monitoring Plan commitments.

## **5. MITIGATION IMPLEMENTATION**

- 5.1 The Water Company shall deploy the within- drought permit mitigation measures as committed within the DP MMP.
- 5.2 If the River Test flow is below 355 Ml/d and a low dissolved oxygen event is identified (as per 2.2 above) or, if fish distress is found, the Water Company shall discuss with the Environment Agency whether the Water Company should deploy equipment to aerate to the River Test at the locations identified within the DP MMP or other location identified by the EA at which the equipment can be practically deployed. This equipment will only be deployed if agreed by the local landowner and fishing lease holder.
- 5.3 If migratory fish are found to be unable to pass structures in the river downstream of the abstraction point due to low flow when the river flow is less than 355 Ml/d and, a temporary fish passage easement is feasible and has been agreed with the Environment Agency, Fisheries representatives and local landowners and, access is agreed, the Water Company shall implement that temporary fish passage easement.
- 5.4 Subject to conclusion of discussion or pursuance as agreed of items 5.1 to 5.3 above, fish rescue should be deployed as committed in the DP MMP (as pre-agreed with the Environment, to Environment Agency procedure), subject to notification to the Environment Agency and confirmation by the Environment Agency and, agreement by the local landowner and fishing lease holder.
- 5.5 If the conditions of 4.1, 4.2 or 4.3 occur, the Environment Agency may approach the Water Company to consider temporary reduction or cessation of abstraction from the River Test at Testwood according to one of the following options:-

- (i) Total cessation for up to six hours or,
- (ii) Reduction of the river abstraction to 50% of requirement to satisfy demand to customers. (Where that full demand is expected to be the average abstraction of the preceding three days).

Where, option (i) and option (ii) are both subject to,

- (a) the Water Company being able to draw from Testwood Little lake to maintain supply to customers through the cessation / reduction period,

and, it is recognised by the Environment Agency that,

- (b) subsequent re-instatement of river abstraction will be at a higher rate (within the Drought Permit conditions) so as to maintain supply to customers and top up the Testwood Little Lake
- (c) there will be no further cessation or reduction of the river abstraction until the Testwood Little Lake is topped up so as to be able to adequately support supply to customers such period.

## **6. REPORTING**

6.1 Each Tuesday the Water Company shall provide an hour by hour record of the abstraction taken at Testwood for the preceding week.

6.2 Fortnightly, on Wednesday's, the Water Company shall provide a summary Drought Permit Implementation Report, including the environmental information collected by implementation of the DP MMP for the drought permit.

6.3 Where any mitigation measures are deployed, the Water Company shall provide a complete summary report within seven working days of the closure of their deployment. While they are ongoing, the Water Company will report on them within the Fortnightly Implementation Report.