



guardians of drinking water quality

DRINKING WATER INSPECTORATE

Area 5b
Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3JR

Enquiries: 030 0068 6400

E-mail: milo.purcell@defra.gov.uk
DWI Website: <http://www.dwi.gov.uk>

10 July 2019

Mr Ceri Jones
Assets and Assurance Director
Northumbrian Water Ltd
Baldon House
Wheatlands Way
Pity Me
Durham
DH1 5FA

Dear Mr Jones

PERIODIC REVIEW 2019: Northumbrian Water
DWI Scheme reference: NNE_ESK DAF Layer WTW

FINAL DECISION LETTER

The Inspectorate has completed its detailed assessment of the scheme proposed by Northumbrian Water to provide an additional filtration stage at the following treatment works: Layer WTW operated by Northumbrian Water, to secure or facilitate compliance with the standard for turbidity and customer acceptability in drinking water.

The detailed assessment also took in to consideration the outcome of the risk assessment report submitted to the Inspectorate as required by regulation 28(1) of the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2016 (as amended) for Layer WTW and the connected supply system.

A summary of the outcome of our assessment of this scheme is attached. Based on the information submitted by the Company, the Inspectorate supports the need for a scheme to reduce algal and turbidity loading in raw water for water quality reasons, and the supported scheme shall be included by the Company in its Final Business Plan, subject to the caveats listed in the attachment.

In this instance the Inspectorate intends to issue a Notice under Regulation 28(4) of the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2016 (as amended), which requires the Company to mitigate the risk of algal and turbidity loading in raw water that has been identified as a potential risk to wholesomeness from the water supplied from Layer.

It is expected that the Company will continue to monitor treated raw water, and that it will take all reasonable steps to prevent contraventions of the standards.

I am copying this letter to:

- Tom Lowe and Kevin Ridout at Ofwat;

- Elinor Smith at the Environment Agency;
- Bernard Crump (CCW Chair, Central and Eastern)

Please contact Sue Pennison (Sue.Pennison@defra.gov.uk) with any queries relating to this letter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Milo Purcell".

Milo Purcell
Deputy Chief Inspector

PERIODIC REVIEW 2019

SUMMARY OF DWI ASSESSMENT – LETTER OF SUPPORT

Comment	
<u>Water company:</u>	Northumbrian Water
<u>DWI scheme reference(s):</u>	NNE_ESK DAF Layer WTW
<u>Scheme name:</u>	Layer WTW – Raw water deterioration
<u>Proposal:</u>	The companies proposed scheme is to install a new front end DAF (dissolved air floatation) treatment process stream at Layer WTW to address the changes to catchment water quality at Abberton (principally turbidity and algae). This will ensure that the works can maintain its full deployable output all year and will remove the risks of supply restrictions to over 300,000 properties caused by emerging changes in raw water quality at Abberton
<u>Supporting evidence:</u>	Annex A submission – Layer WTW Deteriorating Raw Water Quality DWI Risk Assessment Report 2019/048646 ESK T005 Layer
<u>Conclusion:</u>	Subject to the caveats listed below, the Inspectorate supports the need for the following scheme: To install and operate a DAF (dissolved air floatation) treatment process stream at Layer WTW to address the changes to catchment raw water quality.
<u>Timescale:</u>	Completion date: 2025
<u>Estimated cost:</u>	Estimated capital costs: Additional treatment at Layer WTW - £26m capex, with additional OPEX costs estimated at £580,000 per year
<u>Legal Instrument Required:</u>	Notice under Regulation 28 (4)
<u>Caveats:</u>	Subject to agreement to, and completion of, more intensive investigation to provide further information to confirm steps to be taken and project completion dates
<u>Comment:</u>	DWI has no role in determining proportional allocation of expenditure. Where DWI technical support is given, this should not be taken by the company to imply that the scheme will be partially or wholly funded as a Quality item. Schemes that require a legal instrument are considered necessary to meet statutory drinking water quality requirements. These schemes will be transposed to formal programmes of work by DWI as soon as possible and their implementation and completion will be monitored, audited and closure confirmed by DWI.