



guardians of drinking water quality

DRINKING WATER INSPECTORATE

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30 May 2018

Mr Phil Newland
Managing Director
South Staffordshire Water
Walsall
West Midlands
WS2 7PD

Dear Mr Newland

PERIODIC REVIEW 2019: South Staffordshire Water DWI Scheme reference: SST01 – Ashwood WTW – Resilience

FINAL DECISION LETTER – COMMEND FOR SUPPORT

The Inspectorate has assessed the scheme proposed by South Staffordshire Water to provide ion exchange treatment solutions for increasing resilience (by reducing nitrate & chlorthal) in water supplied from the Ashwood WTW operated by South Staffordshire Water..

Based on the information submitted by the Company, the Inspectorate commends for support the proposals to deliver improvements to the distribution network, to mitigate residual risks to the wholesomeness of water supplied to consumers, and we agree that the proposals should be included by the Company in its Final Business Plan. We consider that formal enforcement action and putting in place a legal instrument is inappropriate at this stage. We confirm that the proposed scheme is consistent with the requirements of Defra's Strategic Policy Statement published in September 2017.

We also confirm that the proposed scheme is consistent with the Inspectorate's guidance on principles for the assessment of drinking water quality provisions within the PR19 process, as set out in DWI Information Letter 03/2017, published on 12 September 2017. In particular, we are satisfied that the proposed scheme adopts a sound risk based approach to management of water supplies from source to tap using a water safety plan approach.

The Inspectorate is prepared to review this decision should circumstances change significantly, or if new information becomes available.

This decision does not preclude regulatory enforcement action being taken subsequently, if considered necessary to protect public health.

I am copying this letter to:

- Jon Ashley and Kevin Ridout at Ofwat;
- Elinor Smith and John Collins at the Environment Agency;
- Bernard Crump (CCW Chair, Central and Eastern)
- Simon Sperryn (Chair of Independent Customer Panel)

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

Yours sincerely

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

Milo Purcell
Deputy Chief Inspector