



Albion Water

Draft drought plan

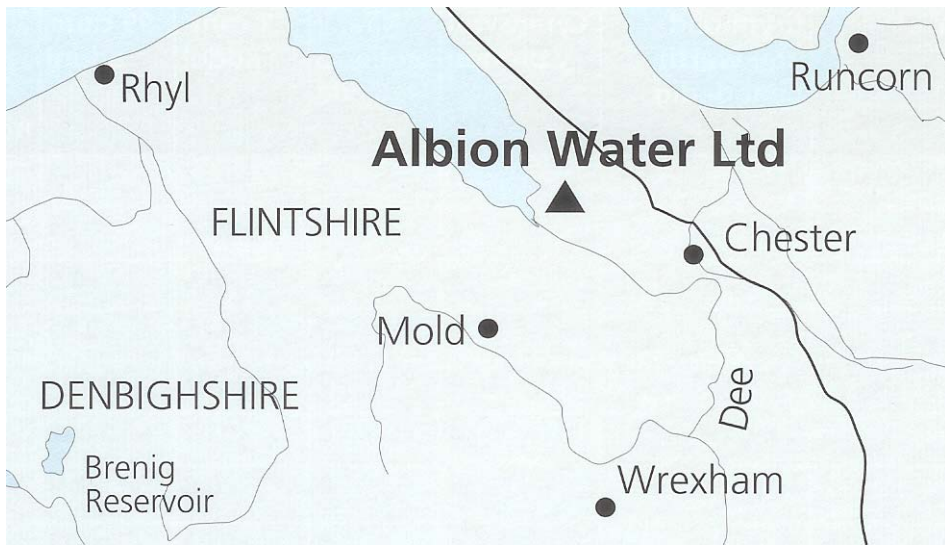
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1 Executive Summary

Albion Water receives supplies of both potable and non-potable water under the terms of a bulk supply agreement with Dwr Cymru. Albion has no water resource under its control and is therefore unable to apply for drought permits or orders.

Over 99% of water delivered by Albion Water is for industrial use and, unlike most water undertakers, this demand is almost solely dependent on production, little influenced by weather.

Albion has agreed a communication strategy with Dwr Cymru in the event that certain drought stages are reached on the River Dee (operational management rules are established by the Dee Consultative Committee). Although no restriction of water is envisaged by DCC, Albion has identified steps that it will take to encourage the careful use of water over and above its normal operational activities.

Derbynnir Dwr Albion cyflenwad o ddwr (dwr yfed a ddwr diwydiannol) o dan amodau cytundeb swmp brynnu gyda Dwr Cymru. Ni does gan Albion rheolaeth dros yr adnodd dwr, ac felly nid ydynt yn gallu ymgeisio am trwyddedau nag gorchmynion sychder.

Mae 99% o'r dwr a dderbynnir gan Dwr Albion yn cael ei ddefnyddio'n ddiwydiannol, ac yn anhebyg i gwmnïau dwr eraill, mae'r gofynion yn dibynnu, yn bennaf, ar cynhyrchiad a ddylanwad fach gan yr tywydd.

Cytunwyd Albion a strategaeth cyfarthrebu gyda Dwr Cymru yn yr achlysur lle bu sychder ar yr afon Dyfrdwy. Sefydlwyd rheolau gweithredol gan Pwyllgor Ymgynhorol yr afon Dyfrdwy (Dee Consultative Committee - DCC).

Nid yw'r DCC yn ymweld cyfyngiadau ar cyflenwad dwr, ond mae Albion wedi canfod camau, dros ben ei weithgareddau safonol, er mwyn annog yr defnydd dwr gofalus.

2 Background

2.1 Structure of Albion Water's Response

This draft Drought Plan is Albion's proportionate response to the requirements set out in section 39B of the Water Industry Act (as amended by the Water Act 2003), Drought Plan Regulations 2005 and the Environment Agency's published guidelines (Oct. 2005 v2).

2.2 Albion Water's Inset Appointment

In May 1999 Albion Water was granted an inset appointment to supply both potable and non-potable water to Shotton Paper on Deeside, becoming the first and only new water undertaker since privatisation. Water supplies are taken from Dwr Cymru under the terms of a bulk supply agreement and, latterly, a Competition Appeal Tribunal price order.

2.3 Legislation

Section 39B of the WIA states:

- (1) It shall be the duty of each water undertaker to prepare and maintain a drought plan.
- (2) A drought plan is a plan for how the water undertaker will continue, during a period of drought, to discharge its duties to supply adequate quantities of wholesome water, with as little recourse as reasonably possible to drought orders or drought permits under Chapter 3 of Part 2 of the Water Resources Act 1991.

Despite the reference to wholesome water Albion has considered both potable and non-potable consumption.

2.4 Consultation

Following receipt of company specific guidance from the Welsh Assembly Government, Albion Water sent drought plan consultation letters to Ofwat, the Environment Agency and the Welsh Assembly Government and, given the nature of Albion's supply arrangements, also sought comments from Dwr Cymru. There are no Water Supply Licensees operating in Albion's area of appointment.

Written or verbal responses were received from Ofwat, the Environment Agency and Dwr Cymru.

2.5 Drought Permits and Orders

In the absence of control over its own water resources, Albion Water is unable to apply for drought permits or drought orders.

3 Water Supply and Demand

3.1 Bulk Supply

Both potable and non-potable bulk supplies are taken from Dwr Cymru's Alwen/Dee Water Resource Zone. All supply is metered and over the last three years non-potable water has made up over 99% of water consumption.

3.2 Usage

The vast majority of water supplied to site is used in industrial processes, the balance being made up of domestic uses such as food preparation, drinking, hygiene and for health and safety (e.g. emergency showers).

3.3 Demand Drivers

Unlike most water undertakers demand on Albion Water is not significantly influenced by weather. Instead it is almost wholly determined by industrial production.

3.4 Supply and Demand Management

3.4.1 Supply

Bulk supply, no resource therefore none possible.

3.4.2 Demand

Albion Water has a regular presence on site to facilitate efficient industrial and domestic water use.

Industrial

Water use is driven by production and is controlled by the commercial desire to increase margins by reducing input costs. As with any well run production business regular performance reporting is undertaken and site personnel are encouraged to work towards Best in Class performance.

Domestic

Scope for reducing domestic use is perhaps more limited than for most water undertakers because of Albion's regular site presence, limited peak demand due to 24hr working and there being no garden watering or car washing. However Albion Water recognises the benefits of developing pipe network understanding and publicising the need for water conservation, especially during periods of drought. The use of site's intranet and information dissemination through production centres and notices are the primary tools for promoting careful water consumption.

Leaking taps, basins and 'over active' urinals are the main contributors to wastage and site's response to these would be reviewed and further encouraged during periods of drought.

4 Drought Scenarios and Triggers

The River Dee is a heavily regulated resource that has enabled the granting of significantly higher abstraction licences than would have been the case had the river remained unmanaged. The Environment Agency is responsible for managing the River Dee Regulation System and is facilitated in this task by the Dee Consultative Committee. Operational management rules are established for both normal and drought conditions and Dwr Cymru operate the assets in accordance with these.

Albion Water understands that there is a three stage response to drought. Stages are progressively reached depending on a drought's severity. Dwr Cymru has informed Albion that no action would be taken that would have an impact on our bulk supply agreement during either Dee stage 1 or 2 and there was no current plan to restrict supply to Albion under Dee stage 3.

It was agreed that communication between Dwr Cymru and Albion was desirable and as a minimum this would take the form of advice to Albion when each drought stage was being approached. This advice would form triggers to which Albion would respond as follows:

- Dee Stage 1* Information dissemination and promotion of careful water use as described in 3.4.2.
- Dee Stage 2* As stage 1 and domestic water use site audit and action plan.
- Dee Stage 3* As stage 2 and the facilitation of communication between regulatory, industrial, supplier and economic stakeholders.

4.1 Environmental Impacts

Albion Water is not aware of any environmentally sensitive sites in its area of supply that would be affected by any drought action available to it or otherwise referred to in this document.

5 Management and Communication

Any actions on site that are triggered by a Dee stage drought level will be managed by Albion's Area Manager who would report directly to the Technical Director on a weekly basis. Dwr Cymru's first contact with Albion Water about drought actions should be directed to:

Technical Director
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Middlesex
TW11 0BN

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Mob. 07731 416492

Fax. 020 8977 3185

Email drought@albionwater.co.uk

Regular communications will be planned with Dwr Cymru during the period of any Dee drought stage and during any follow up assessment. Albion would be pleased to participate should direct engagement with the Dee Consultative Committee (or any relevant sub group) be required.