



Albion Water

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November 2007

Following a recent case management conference dealing with excessive pricing issues in Albion's long running Shotton Paper case, the Competition Appeal Tribunal has set a timetable for written exchanges by Order, leading to a hearing on 14th February 2008. The following day is also set aside to ensure that, if outstanding issues remain, these can be fully and finally aired.

Full details of the Shotton Paper case (1046/2/4/04) can be found on the Tribunal's website (see below).

October 2007

Albion Water's parent company has taken the decision to change its name from Waterlevel Limited to Albion Water Group Limited, with immediate effect.

The change recognises growing market awareness of the association of the Albion Water name with the struggle to extend competition to the UK water market. It also reflects Albion Group's ongoing efforts to extend competitive choice in the water market.

The change of name will have no impact on the day-to-day management or operation of Albion Water Limited.

September 2007

Albion welcomes the prospect of being joined by new water and sewerage inset appointees (see SSE and IWNL for more information) and hopes that this development is finally a signal that Ofwat is taking positive action to promote competition in the water industry. Dr Bryan comments that "The prospect of competitive choice being delivered to all domestic customers is still some way off, but, for greenfield sites, the existence of choice is greatly welcomed. However, we share the view of government that the real benefits will only be delivered when significant water savings are achieved through innovative infrastructure and service provision rather than marginal price reductions." Albion hopes that this expansion of competition is not throttled back by excessive parent company guarantee requirements or, as has been the case in the past, regulatory delay.

June 2007



Native Black Poplars (*Populus nigra betulifolia*) thrive at Calke Wastewater Treatment Works.

Installed in 1999 for the National Trust as an alternative to conventional package treatment plant, domestic effluent from Calke village is settled, treated and disposed of via a unique wetland evapotranspiration system (in which the maturing trees play an increasingly important role).

The site not only provides a home for the scarce Black Poplars as well as more widespread but locally sourced tree species such as Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), Aspen (*Populus tremula*) and various willows (*Salix* spp.), but also provides a welcome refuge for wildlife and contributes landscape value in its rural setting.

April 2006

Judgement in Albion Water's "Albion Yard and Bath House" case was handed down by the Competition Appeal Tribunal on 31st March.

This is the first time Ofwat's role as a competition regulator has been successfully challenged and Albion is now considering a number of options for making use of this landmark judgment to make better use of neglected water resources, particularly given the shortages in London and the South East

In its judgement the Tribunal set aside Ofwat's decision on 'overs and unders' (this relates to symmetry in valuing over or under water supply) on the grounds of lack of reasoning. The Tribunal also found that the Director's decision on the original access price could not stand. Procedural inadequacies in Ofwat's handling of the case were identified and comment was made that patterns of anticompetitive conduct should be considered in the exercise of relevant statutory powers.

Full details of the judgement are available at
<http://www.catribunal.org.uk/documents/Jdg1042Albion310306.pdf>