

Response ID ANON-FVBH-SHGE-D

Submitted to Proposed changes to the water company drought plan guideline
Submitted on 2025-01-23 14:25:32

Your details

Are you providing an individual or personal response, or a response on behalf of an organisation or group? Please choose one of the following:

responding on behalf of an organisation or group

If you answered 'on behalf of an organisation or group' what is the name of the organisation or group?:

ADA (Association of Drainage Authorities)

If you answered 'other' please explain your area of interest:

We would like to keep you informed about the outcomes of this consultation. If you would like to receive emails acknowledging your response and or telling you when we have published the summary of responses, please select all that apply:

yes, I would like to receive an email acknowledgement of my response, yes, I would like to receive an email to let me know the summary of responses is published

If you have selected any of the boxes above, please tell us your email address::

ian.moodie@ada.org.uk

Can we publish your response to this consultation?

yes

If you answered no, please tell us why:

How did you find out about this consultation?

from the Environment Agency

If you answered 'other' please specify:

What water companies "must" and "should" include in their drought plans

1 Is the guideline clear on what water companies "must" and "should" include in their drought plans? Please choose one of the following answers:

clear

Why do you think this? Please answer below:

How water companies assign their drought actions to the severity of a drought (drought levels)

2 Is the guideline clear on how water companies should show the actions they will take at each drought level? Please choose one of the following answers:

clear

Why do you think this? Please answer below:

Water companies should do more to reduce residential customer demand

3 Are the further demand actions proposed to reduce residential customer water use in the guideline adequately explained for the water companies? Please choose one of the following answers:

neither agree or disagree

Why do you think this? Please answer below:

Extreme drought management actions

4 Do you think the information provided on extreme drought management actions will help water companies in planning for a more severe drought in the future? Please choose one of the following answers:

neither agree or disagree

Why do you think this? Please answer below:

More details on the non-technical summary for customers and stakeholders

5 Do you think customers and stakeholders will gain a better understanding of their water company drought plans through the water company summaries? Please choose one of the following answers:

agree

Why do you think this? Please answer below:

General feedback on the updated water company drought plan guideline

6 Is there anything in the guideline which you think is unclear, missing or wrong?

yes

Please explain your answer and refer to the sections and page numbers relevant to your comments:

In section 2.1 entitled 'Hold discussions' on page 14 of the Draft Water company drought plan guideline, 'relevant internal drainage boards (IDBs)' should be specifically included in the list of those other consultees that Water Companies should consider carrying out discussions with in developing their drought plans. Given the role of IDBs in managing water levels within lowland landscapes across one tenth of England's land area it will be important that IDBs are engaged in drought planning within their various catchments.

Currently funding that IDBs receive nationally and locally is hypothecated on their land drainage and flood risk management role, yet many of their assets and systems play a critical role during droughts in retaining water safely. We would like to look at how the assets and systems of internal drainage boards can be further utilised in the future to retain water safely within their districts, to reduce drought pressures within the landscape.

The above comments may also be relevant to section 5.4 'Arrangements for coordinated communications' and aligning and coordinating communications in lowland landscapes within internal drainage boards.