



## Drought Permit – modify existing abstraction

Section 79A Water Resources Act 1991 as amended by the Environment Act 1995

The Environment Agency (“the Agency”) grants this drought permit to:

Yorkshire Water Services Limited (“the Water  
Company”)

Western House  
Halifax Road  
Bradford  
West Yorkshire  
BD6 2SZ

Registered Company Number: 02366682

This drought permit modifies section 7(1) of the 1890 Baildon Local Water (Weecher) Act dated 1890 (“the Act”) as set out in the Schedule of Conditions to this drought permit.

This drought permit commences from the effective date shown below and shall remain in force until the date of expiry shown below.

All other provisions of the Act remain in full force and effect.

<b>Signed</b> Victoria Slingsby Yorkshire Area Drought Manager	<b>Date of issue</b> .....24 October 2022
On behalf of Mike Dugher Yorkshire Area Director	<b>Date effective</b> ..... 24 October 2022
	<b>Date of expiry</b> .....31 March 2023

Environment Agency  
Lateral House  
8 City Walk  
Leeds  
LS11 9AT

## SCHEDULE OF CONDITIONS

### 1. COMPENSATION FLOW

1.1 Paragraph 7(1) of the Act is substituted with the following:

(i) Subject to condition 1.1(ii) of this drought permit, the Water Company shall make a uniform and continuous release of compensation flow of not less than 215 cubic metres per day from Weecher Reservoir to the Weecher Brow Beck and the River Aire at National Grid Reference SE 13819 41994 or other location as agreed in writing by the Agency.

(ii) If the regional reservoir stocks are below the Regional Drought Control Line as defined in section 2 of the Yorkshire Water Drought Plan for a period of more than four consecutive weeks then the Water Company shall make a uniform and continuous release of compensation flow of not less than 143 cubic metres per day from Weecher Reservoir to the Weecher Brow Beck and the River Aire at National Grid Reference SE 13819 41994 or other location as agreed in writing by the Agency.

Regional Drought Control Line' is stated in Figure 2.1 in Section 2.1 of the Yorkshire Water Services 2022 Drought Plan, marked 'DCL' in the graph for the Regional Reservoir Group (with the left hand vertical column representing in percentage terms how full the reservoirs in the entire Region are).

A day means any period of 24 consecutive hours reckoned from 9.00am.

### 2. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND MITIGATION

2.1 The Water Company shall undertake the monitoring as set out in Appendix 1.

2.2 If the monitoring identifies signs of environmental problems, including but not limited to fish in distress, a pollution incident, water quality deterioration, algae blooms or spread of invasive non-native species the following actions shall be undertaken by the Water Company:

2.2.1 (i) upon finding any signs of environmental problems the Water Company shall notify the Agency in writing and by telephone on 0800 80 70 60 and shall provide details of the signs of distress and the location;

(ii) a remedial course of action shall be formulated to address the signs of environmental problems, which shall be implemented as directed in writing by the Agency.

2.2.2 If, upon being notified of any signs of environmental problems in accordance with condition 2.2.1(i), or at its own instigation, the Agency gives written notice that there is a disruption to the ecology, the Water Company shall increase compensation flow from Weecher Brow Beck and the River Aire at National Grid Reference SE 13819 41994 to a rate of not less than 430 cubic metres per day, or a lesser quantity if agreed in writing by the Agency.

The Water Company shall increase the stated compensation flows as soon as possible and within 48 hours of receipt of written notification from the Agency.

The Water Company shall not thereafter reduce the compensation flow to that specified in condition 1.1 until it has confirmed in writing that appropriate remedial action has been taken, and the Agency has confirmed in writing that it is satisfied with this.

2.3 The changes to the compensation flow specified in conditions 1.1, 2.2.2 and 2.4 of this drought permit shall be made in a steady and controlled manner, at a rate so as not to cause any flooding of land, disturbance to water users downstream, any adverse effects on the quality of water in the inland water, or any adverse impacts on the ecology of the inland water or dependent ecosystems.

2.4 **Freshet flows**

If, upon being notified by the Agency, or upon discovering by environmental monitoring, or other evidence, that an increase in compensation flow is needed to support riverine ecology/trout and salmon species and/or improve water quality, as identified in the Water Company Environmental Monitoring Plan North West Area Appendix termed IDMIT\_9 and IDMIT\_17 the Water Company shall increase compensation flow at a time, to a rate and for a duration, as agreed in writing by the Agency, at National Grid Reference SE 13819 41994, or other location as agreed in writing by the Agency.

**3. FURTHER CONDITIONS**

3.1 Unless the Agency otherwise agree in writing, this drought permit shall not be relied upon unless the Water Company has imposed Temporary Use Ban restrictions from Yorkshire Water Services 2022 Drought Plan for the Grid Resource Zone, and such bans remain in force.

**APPENDIX 1**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING SCHEDULE: STANDARD SCHEDULE**

Assessment Type	<p>Surveillance walkover surveys of habitat quality and ecological stress, recording signs of environmental problems.</p> <p>The Water Company shall discuss and agree with the Agency any proposed changes to this monitoring schedule in advance of carrying out any of the survey work.</p>
Duration of Monitoring	<p>The environmental monitoring surveys shall take place from the first day that the total compensation flow to Weecher Brow Beck and the River Aire from Weecher Reservoir is reduced under this drought permit until this drought permit expires or is revoked, unless otherwise agreed by the Environment Agency.</p>
Environmental Distress	<p>The following are suggested signs of environmental problems but are not exhaustive. If advice is required then the Agency can be contacted on 0800 80 70 60.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fish in distress, for example gasping at the surface or leaping out of the water.</li> <li>• Dead fish.</li> <li>• Concentration of fish in restricted areas/pools which could increase susceptibility to predation.</li> <li>• Inhibition of movement of fish past river structures or other barriers.</li> <li>• Reduced habitat availability for adult and juvenile life stages (including spawning/nursery areas).</li> <li>• Reduced depth of flow over brown trout redds.</li> <li>• Signs of polluting discharges during walkover surveys, problems exacerbated during lower flows and/or reduced dilution.</li> <li>• Algal blooms.</li> </ul> <p>Establishment and/or expansion of invasive non-native species.</p>
Monitoring Method & Standard of Assessment	<p>The Water Company shall measure and record the following information. For all environmental problems identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The location of the site of environmental problems observed.</li> <li>• A photo or photos should be taken of any signs of environmental distress.</li> <li>• Weather conditions at the time of the observations.</li> <li>• Dissolved oxygen concentration</li> <li>• Ammonium concentration</li> </ul> <p>Where relevant to the environmental problem observed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approximate number of dead fish.</li> <li>• Any signs of damage or disease.</li> <li>• Approximate number of fish in distress, gasping at the surface or leaping out of the water.</li> <li>• Whether the fish are being stranded in shallow pools.</li> <li>• Depth of water over brown trout redds</li> <li>• Description of structures and stretches of any watercourses that have no flow or significantly reduced flow.</li> <li>• Approximate size of the fish affected.</li> <li>• The species affected.</li> <li>• Signs of pollution.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Presence of algal blooms/scums.</li></ul> Species, location and extent of invasive non-native species.
Frequency of monitoring	On the day of any flow changes implemented under conditions 1.1 or 2.2.2, the day after and then weekly thereafter until no further flow changes are made. If no signs of environmental distress are noted from two consecutive walkover surveys no further walkover surveys are necessary until there are further flow changes.
Location of Monitoring	1.Weecher Brow Beck between SE 15150 41384 and SE 15490 41207 2.500m located between SE 16199 40664 to SE 16444 40377
Survey Results	At the same time each week for the duration of the Drought Permit, the Water Company shall provide to the Environment Agency in the form of a calendar week report, the following details: i.Monitoring data as required from Condition 2.1,  The report shall be sent to <a href="mailto:drought.yorkshire@environment-agency.gov.uk">drought.yorkshire@environment-agency.gov.uk</a> Note: a calendar week is a period of 7 consecutive days beginning on a Monday.
Responsibility	Unless otherwise discussed and agreed in writing, the Water Company will be responsible for all of the costs associated with this monitoring programme.  Health and safety requirements whilst carrying out the surveys are the responsibility of the Water Company.

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## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Note: the following information is provided for information only. It does not form part of the licence.

### REASONS FOR MODIFICATIONS AND CONDITIONS

#### Mitigation

Condition 2 of this drought permit has been included to mitigate against any environmental problems that may be caused by or affected by the Water Company reducing compensation flows.

The Agency will take into consideration any other actions the Water Company are taking or plan to take in order to mitigate effects on the environment, such as mitigation actions identified in their 'Drought Plan: Environmental Assessment Report –North West Area Reservoirs', 07/09/2022.

For the purpose of condition 2.2.1 the Water Company shall notify the Agency via email to: [drought.yorkshire@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:drought.yorkshire@environment-agency.gov.uk) and by telephone on 0800 80 70 60 and make reference to that fact that this is in regard to the 'Weecher Reservoir Drought Permit.'

#### Freshet Flows

Condition 2.4 allows for compensation flows to be temporarily increased from the quantities specified under Condition 1.1 through the range of flows up to the maximum authorised under section 7(1) of the 1890 Baildon Local Water (Weecher) Act dated 1890. Section 3.4.'In Drought Mitigation Options' of Yorkshire Water's Environmental Monitoring Plan identifies Freshet Flows in the context of this drought permit as;

IDMIT\_9 - Artificial freshet release to provide temporary variation in the flow regime (fish, white-clawed crayfish, fine-lined pea mussel, water vole, otter)

IDMIT\_17 - Provision of freshet releases to enable migration of fish across significant obstacles (fish)

For the purpose of condition 2.4, the Water Company shall, prior to making any increase in compensation flows, first seek agreement of the Agency via email to: [drought.yorkshire@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:drought.yorkshire@environment-agency.gov.uk) and by telephone on 0800 80 70 60 and make reference to the fact that this is in regard to the 'Weecher Reservoir Drought Permit.'

#### Monitoring Locations

The Monitoring Locations referred to in Appendix 1 are the downstream reach or reaches where monitoring is required, in accordance with Water Company Environmental Monitoring Plan North West Area Appendix A2 dated 13.09.22, respectively termed IDMON\_1 and the Water Company Drought Options Impact Screening – Appendix 4 North-West Area Reservoirs.

### IMPORTANT NOTES

#### Temporary Use ban

You must follow your 2022 drought plan and implement a Temporary Use Ban (under sections 76 and 76A – C of the Water Industries Act 1991) before using the powers granted by this permit, unless the Agency agrees that such ban is not necessary due to the circumstances at the time.

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**Environmental Monitoring Plan**

The conditions and monitoring incorporated on this permit is in addition to the Environmental Monitoring Plan agreed between the Agency and the Water Company.