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24 December 2024

Dear Stakeholder,

ESP Water Drought Plan 2027 Pre-Consultation

Who we are

ESP Water is an independent water and sewerage company also known as a NAV (New appointment and variation company) supplying water and wastewater services to new residential housing and high-rise developments. We are also a wholesaler in the Non-Household (NHH) business market. This means we are responsible for operating and maintaining a business's water and wastewater supply, but not sending bills to the customer.

Areas where we work

Our networks are across England and are connected to the networks of the incumbent suppliers. These incumbents are currently:

- United Utilities
- Northumbrian Water North
- Severn Trent Water
- South West Water
- Yorkshire Water
- Anglian Water
- Thames Water
- South Staffs Water
- Wessex Water
- Essex and Suffolk Water

Why we are writing to you

Under the Water Industry Act 1991 and in accordance with the Drought Plan Regulations 2005 we are required to prepare, publish, and maintain a drought plan. I am writing to you to ask for your views on our proposed changes to our drought plan ahead of submission to Defra for approval in Autumn 2025. After that there will be a public consultation on our draft plan. We would welcome any feedback that you have for our review and update of the plan.

Our existing plan, which was published in 2024, can be found on our website at [ESPW Final Drought Plan](#) and our review and update will include, but is not limited to the following:

- A full review of the current plan to make sure that it meets the updated Environment agency guidance on drought planning for the 2027 Drought plan, legislation on drought, aligns with our latest Water Resources Management Plan 2024 and meets the Government expectations for water company drought plans.
- The inclusion of all sites we now supply since the publication of our plan in February 2024.
- Ensure our drought triggers and our current Levels of Service for the introduction of temporary use bans on certain water use activities match those of the incumbents we take a supply from.
- A review of our communications plan to ensure it remains effective and appropriate to inform customers and stakeholders about any emerging drought situation and throughout a drought.
- Ensure that in the development of our plans we demonstrate how we will communicate and work with incumbent water companies and the regional planning groups to align our plans, actions and sharing of resources and drought options where necessary.
- Demonstrate how we will work with water retailers for non-household customers in our area of supply, with their own domestic customers in our area of supply to develop clear and consistent drought communications.

[How to feedback to us](#)

Please send us any comments or questions, by **Friday 24 January 2025** to catherine.fearon@espug.com.

We look forward to hearing from you with your comments on our drought plan pre-consultation.

Yours sincerely,



Catherine Fearon
Head of Regulations