

# A first class water supply

Climate change means that water will become an increasingly critical resource. Through Northumbrian Water, water-dependent manufacturers have access to the UK's premier water supply, supported by the huge Kielder Water. Northumbrian Water has never imposed water restrictions and does not expect to have to.



## Water critical businesses

If the steady, secure, cheap and abundant supply of water is mission-critical to your business look no further than Tees Valley.

Whatever your operational uses for water - in product, process, safety or hygiene - there is simply no better set up in the UK.

We have the resource, the experience and the expertise to welcome relocating or expanding businesses that find their current or planned operations potentially restricted by tightening legislation, the risk of environmental impact or concerns about climate change.

## World class infrastructure

With many water-dependent businesses already well established in Tees Valley, there is in place a tried and tested world class water and waste infrastructure - easy to connect to and secure of supply.

## Tees Valley water supply

- Five reservoirs located in the Teesdale area feed Tees Valley
- Back up from the UK's largest man made lake, Kielder Water
- The UK's highest potable water compliance level
- One of the cheapest potable water tariffs in the UK
- High quality raw water supplied naturally
- The cheapest raw water in the UK

## Quantity and quality - an outstanding combination

Compared to the relatively dry south east of England, the Tees Valley can not only boast supply from five reservoirs but it can draw if necessary on the 220 billion litres of high quality water available from Kielder. This delivers outstanding economic advantages in terms of supply and treatment costs.



# Legislation affecting water users

## New legislation, new threats

The Water Resources Act 1991 controls the abstraction and impounding of water. Recent significant changes to the current legislation are due to be phased in during 2005/6. The main changes that may affect you include:

- Revocation of unused or environmentally damaging licences
- New provisions for third parties to pursue claims against abstractors
- Increased Environment Agency powers to acquire information

If current abstraction levels continue or grow, these changes will increase the revocation of licences where water is scarce. Tees Valley's abundant water resource ensures water users are much less exposed to the risk of tightening legislation.

## Environmental Issues

The quality and quantity of some water resources are changing due to a variety of environmental pressures caused by human activity.

# Fact File

## Water resources

If abstraction increases beyond current levels, there could be further harmful effects on river flows and wetlands:

- Reservoir storage fell in the Midlands and Southern Regions (December 2004 study)
- Southern England already lacks surplus surface water in summer
- Existing licences are causing environmental damage
- Reservoir storage remained high and constant in the Tees Valley in the same study.

## Climate Change

Due to climate change, extreme events such as flooding and drought have a major impact on the water quality abstracted from rivers and canals.

- Flooding increases pollutant concentration from water drawing in pesticides from the surrounding area
- Drought affects the colour of water - the lower the water levels, the higher the discolouration due to the sediment levels

- Flooding and drought require chemicals and costly treatment to gain a better level of water quality
- Tees Valley abstracts its water from a secure, reliable and steady supply protected from the floods and droughts that affect other areas.

## Canal abstraction

Due to the flow rate being considerably low in canals, the quality of water is considered to be of a lower standard, therefore there treatment costs can be more expensive.

Canals also can throw up special problems in abstraction licensing. This is due to the exemption from licensing granted to navigation, harbour or conservancy authorities where the abstraction or impoundment is in the course of the operations of these authorities.

## Land use

The land use of the surrounding area of any water course can become an issue. Farmers using pesticides nearby a river or stream will have an effect on water quality, therefore and increase in carbon dosing is necessary.

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