

# Water Use

31 July 2018

## Cuadrilla's Preston New Road Site

As the water regulator, we have overall responsibility for managing water resources and overseeing the actions water companies take to secure public water supplies. We regulate the abstraction of water from reservoirs in the North West of England, by granting licences to water companies.

We believe water companies need to take a twin-track approach to managing water supply. They need to consider options that can help businesses reduce their demand for water while also developing more resilient supplies for the future that are able to cope with issues such as population growth, climate change, and new industry.

The use of water for hydraulic fracturing is a new demand from oil & gas exploration companies on water companies, however the protection of public water supplies is the priority, particularly during prolonged dry weather. Oil & gas exploration companies should manage their water usage by reusing hydraulic fracturing fluid as far as possible.

With approval granted to Cuadrilla last week to carry out the first hydraulic fracturing of shale in the UK since 2011 there is an expected demand for water for use as hydraulic fracturing fluid. Our expectation remains the same, particularly during dry weather, that water companies secure public water supplies.

The long term planning of water resources is a vital part of delivering the government's objectives to deliver secure, reliable, sustainable and affordable supplies of water. We require water companies to submit plans that look at least 25 years ahead every 5 years that consider the future supply and demand for water.

**Please report environmental incidents associated with dry weather to our Incident Hotline on 0800 80 70 60**

customer service line  
03708 506 506

incident hotline  
0800 80 70 60

floodline  
03459 88 11 88