

Gate two query process

Strategic solution(s)	Severn Trent Sources
Query number	STS008
Date sent to company	15/12/2022
Response due by	19/12/2022

Query

Please could you confirm what metrics and weightings were used for decision making. Please confirm whether they are the same as used for best value metrics in any regional plan and provide details.

Solution owner response

The best value planning approaches, metrics and decision making are generally terms we associate with individual company WRMPs and regional water resources groups. Each group and their member water companies have jointly developed advanced decision-making methods and decision support tools. These are used to develop the regional best value plans which are compared to the least cost plans.

At project level, we have not adopted a best value planning approach as used by the regional planning groups. Data to allow the regional planning group to carry out this process have been submitted to WRSE.

We have undertaken a standard options appraisal exercise to determine the preferred pipeline route. This sought to deliver the least whole life cost solution whilst also minimising environmental impacts, including reducing embodied and operational carbon. Details of the approach can be found in Annex A2 Pipeline Route Appraisal Report submitted with the STS Gate 2 submission.

The treatment processes proposed for Netheridge are based on the requirement to meet the anticipated discharge standard for the receiving water courses. These were derived from EA guidance on environmental permitting.

The requirement to add more advanced treatment at Netheridge to allow the water to be discharged into the receiving water courses, compared to its current discharge location further downstream in the River Severn, is responsible for the majority of construction and operational carbon in the SRO.

As detailed in paragraph 3.20 of the Netheridge Gate 2 submission, we intend to discuss this with the NAU during Gate 3 to explore opportunities to reduce the overall level of treatment, which would result in significant reduction in carbon. The potential saving is detailed in paragraph 3.19 of the Netheridge Gate 2 submission as 16,116 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent.

We continue to explore opportunities for carbon reduction and, as detailed in paragraph 3.12 of the Netheridge Gate 2 submission, we intend to develop alternative options which avoid the need for additional treatment processes at Netheridge WwTW. These could reduce carbon by up to 64,328 tCO₂e and NPV by up to £163.642m, and will be considered in more detail during gate three.

Date of response to RAPID	19/12/2022
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