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Councillor Emily Smith
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Dear Mr Black,

I am writing on behalf of Vale of White Horse District Council regarding Thames Water's plans to build a reservoir south of Abingdon. We are profoundly concerned about the climate implications of this proposal and the lack of accurate, detailed and independent information regarding its potential impacts.

As a council, the Vale is committed to cutting the district's carbon emissions by 75% by 2030 and are, therefore, keen to fully understand the significant environmental costs of such a project. Unfortunately, however, such data is not currently available to us – thus, inhibiting our ability to thoroughly scrutinise Thames Water's plans.

We are, therefore, recommending to Ofwat that a detailed and independently scrutinised carbon calculation be made of the proposed Abingdon reservoir project. This should include all sources of embedded carbon, carbon used during construction, and ongoing carbon including methane outgassing. In addition, it should also contain more detailed assessments of the proposed mitigations (including the timescale on which these intended mitigations would be reached).

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Emily Smith
Leader of the Council