

Matthew Meredith

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 January 2026 15:41
To: OCS Sustainable Abstraction Team
Subject: SECTION 62 NOTICE - OLD WALLS HYDRO - PROPOSED CHANGE TO ABSTRACTION LICENCE Ref: DCISOldWalls552

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Dear Sir/Madam,

Old Walls, Widecombe Hydro Plant (Mr M F Fursdon – ref: DCISOldWalls552) – Change to Abstraction Licence

I am writing to object in the strongest possible terms to the proposed enforcement of new conditions for the abstraction licence for the hydro plant at Old Walls, Widecombe, which I have known since the 1990s.

The conditions are very onerous and, if implemented, will have a very considerable negative effect on the financial and practical viability of the scheme.

It is vital that the Environment Agency should recognise the remarkable achievements of this hydro scheme, which is greatly admired both locally and nationally, and which has received a number of important awards, including

- Ashden Award 2004
- Dartmoor First Award for Sustainability 2010
- Dartmoor Society Award 2016

I understand that the Environment Agency has found no fault with any aspect of the operation of the plant. The proposed changes would seem to be the product of an overzealous and 'broad-brush' bureaucracy which has not made allowance for, or properly understood, the particular qualities of this scheme.

I therefore request that the Environment Agency should withdraw their Section 62 Notice which proposes changes to the existing licence.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Tom Greeves MA PhD, 14 January 2026

[REDACTED]