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for Environment,
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Councillor Bethia Thomas
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Our ref: PO2024/22590/SB

23 December 2024

Dear Cllr Thomas,

Thank you for your further letter of 22 November to the Secretary of State about the South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO). I am responding as the Minister responsible for this policy area.

As mentioned in my letter of 2 October, SESRO is subject to ongoing assessments to develop the design and understand the impacts of the scheme. To inform a development consent decision, an Environmental Impact Assessment will be required to understand the potential impacts and how they will be mitigated.

I understand you are concerned specifically about emergency drawdown from the reservoir. I would like to assure you that emergency drawdown is expected to be assessed in the subsequent Environmental Statement.

Thank you for your invitations to meet to discuss SESRO. As SESRO remains in the planning stage, I am regrettably unable to meet to discuss the application further.

Yours sincerely,

EMMA HARDY MP