

Dublin's Lough Ree water plan delayed as more options eyed

Dublin now exploring ten water options



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reports

Dublin City Council is now exploring ten options to source water to supply the Greater Dublin Area and doesn't expect to publish a report on the option of taking water from Lough Ree until this time next year.

A further feasibility study into the Lough Ree option was due to be published early this year, but the council is now exploring a total of ten options to address water shortages in the capital. The ten options include the Lough Ree option and desalination. The council is now in the process of carrying out Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) on the other eight options. These eight options relate to the Shannon and ground water

sources in Dublin.

The council is looking at the possibility of taking water from Lough Derg and a weir above Ardnacrusha or a combination of sources on the River Shannon. It is also exploring the possibility of using ground water sources in Dublin, but doesn't expect to find the quantity needed from these sources. Storage options are also being considered by the council, with one storage option being considered in the midlands

and a number being explored in Dublin.

If the storage option in the midlands is used the council plans to take water from the Shannon at times when the water is high and store it there for use later.

The environmental assessments of the eight options are already underway and a spokesman for Dublin City Council said yesterday (Tuesday) that this process will take until September or October. He added that it

would be March 2009 before a feasibility study into the ten options and a preliminary report would be completed.

Once the report is completed the Department of the Environment will assess it and will decide on what option gets the green light. A detailed Environmental Impact Statement will then be carried out on the chosen option.

The spokesman for the council said yesterday that while there was no favoured

option among the ten being explored, it was unlikely that desalination was an option.

As the council continues to explore the various options to address the water need in the Greater Dublin Area, it plans to launch a website dedicated to this topic in the next two to three weeks and the first document to be published on the site will be a newsletter outlining the council's progress to date on the matter.