Drinking water in a future climate

Vewin
Vereniging van waterbedrijven in Nederland

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Impacts of climate change on drinking water supply

- Sea level rise, salt water intrusion through rivers: impact on surface water intake points
- Change of flow regime of rivers impacts availability, quality and usability of surface water
- Changed rainfall patterns, increased summer droughts: impact on quality and availability of groundwater for drinking water
- Increased salt water intrusion through subsoil: impact on groundwater abstractions
- (soil) Temperature increase: ‘hot spots’ in drinking water network

Main issues for climate change adaptation

- Build on better understanding of how climate change impacts water system (especially drought)
- Invest in retaining rather than discharging water and safeguarding sufficient water availability for drinking water supply
- Improve governance response to drought with water companies as a formal crisis partner and more attention to drinking water and groundwater
- Designate additional strategic groundwater reserves for drinking water supply

Main issues for climate change adaptation

- Make groundwater abstraction permits more flexible / climate proof, taking account of increased demand during warm/dry periods
- Make discharges of substances into surface waters by industries dependent on water flow levels / quality
- Invest in cross border management of (ground)water systems and agreements on water distribution