

Water and Sanitation in the News

Water management standards to be enforced

There has been a decline in water management in several municipalities and water boards and the Department of Water and Sanitation has identified 250 of the country's 1 085 water supply systems that are operating below par. In a statement yesterday, the department said it would need to "intervene" in these 250 water supply systems which had either not submitted proper data or were operating below standard.

The department is set to enforce minimum standards in these municipalities and to spell out the bottom line in qualifications that staff need to run water treatment works.

Problems in the sub-standard municipalities and water boards include:

- Inadequate investment in maintenance, rehabilitation and replacement of old infrastructure. This has led to increasing service failures such as spillages, poor water quality and water outages.
- Inadequate asset management, which compromised water quality and supply in some areas.
- Drinking water quality management being inadequately funded by some municipalities, which included a lack of money for water sampling and for operations and maintenance.
- Lack of trained staff and poor protocols.

The department said it was "imperative" that minimum water quality standards were enforced. "These include implementation and enforcement of regulations which spell out the minimum qualifications required for personnel operating treatment," the department said.

It pointed out that while some areas had problems, the bulk of drinking water in South Africa posed no health risk, and there was "general compliance" with the SA National Standards for drinking water for both microbiological and chemical determinants. This meant that the drinking water provided nationally was safe for human consumption. "However, the department concedes that drinking water quality remains a challenge, and while there are improvements, there are still risks that need to be mitigated against. As the population increases, the operation and maintenance load has also amplified, affecting the preferred standards that the department set for itself," it said.

Source: IOL News, 18 August 2015

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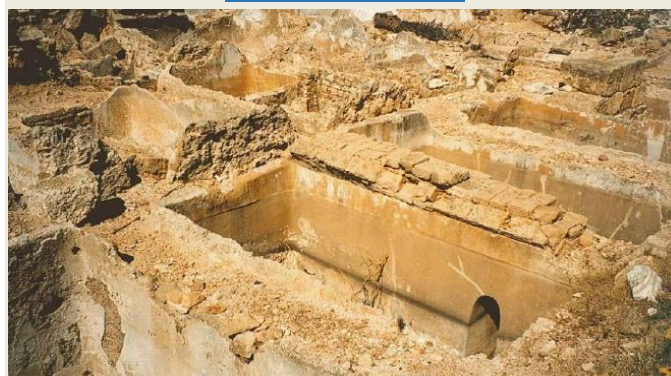
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Preventative Maintenance Principles & Guidelines: Week 2

It is important that we recognise that:

Preventative Maintenance is Not a NEW idea or concept



City of Sour in Lebanon: 2000 years ago – maintained a sewage and water system for >150 years.

Considering present day materials (stainless steel, HDPE, PVC, etc.) and the condition of some infrastructure, < 10 years old, it often seems that we are bettered equipped to compile a manual on "deliberate destruction" than on "preventative maintenance"...



Source: [Outcomes from Advanced Technical Process Controllers' Workshops 2011 & 2015](#)