

Water and Sanitation in the News

Load shedding worsens Polokwane water shortages

The Polokwane Municipality says most of its reservoirs have been low and some almost empty in the past few days. This has resulted in water shortages in high lying areas within the municipality. The situation got worse on Sunday with some reservoirs drying up. Areas most affected are Seshego, Flora Park, Serala View, Thornhill and some parts of Sterpark and Bendor. Lepelle Northern Water (LNW) indicated that load shedding is contributing to low reservoir levels because they have to stop pumps for two or more hours.

Tidimalo Chuene spokesperson for the municipality said the municipality has engaged with Eskom to consider not implementing shedding that will affect all the sources at the same time. LNW has promised to open two pumps after storing more water to increase supply. According to Chuene the municipality cannot say for how long this will continue because load shedding is a major contributor. "However, we are hopeful that our engagement with the supplier and Eskom will bear positive results," she added. The municipality says it will continue to explore means and partnerships that will help provide sufficient water supply to the city. In the interim, water tankers will continue to be provided to areas that are affected.

Source: [Infrastructurene.ws, 23 Feb. 2015](#)

Context

With both the African water and energy sectors being under high levels of stress, while being pressured by climate change, the water-energy nexus has become a key uncertainty on the continent. "It is necessary for [countries] to zoom in on the relationship, linkages and interaction between these two critical sectors," Global Water Partnership Africa senior programme officer Andrew Takawira told delegates at the African Energy Indaba, in Sandton, on 18 February 2015.

"We live in a resource-constrained environment," he noted. "We need to address social equity, [so] that we ensure economic efficiency and water resource management; [and] we need to assist existing institutions to promote cross-sectoral planning [and] quantify trade-offs, as well as

look at the environmental integrity of the [systems that are in place]," he added...

Source: [Engineering News, 18 Feb. 2015](#)



WAMTechnology training, product systems and continuous service, aim to help address the water-energy nexus challenges in South Africa by providing critical support to the management of assets, water quality, staff, water demand, maintenance of water works & sewer systems, vehicles, suppliers and timesheets of staff.

Water supply systems are big consumers of energy throughout the entire water supply cycle—from pumping water to treatment plants, during the treatment process, and distributing the water to consumers. Inefficient pump stations and water treatment plants—from poor design or installation, to inefficient operation performance from lack of maintenance, high head loss or leakage from old and broken pipes, pumps and reservoirs or bottlenecks in the supply network, inadequate supply pressure—are all factors contributing to energy wastage. When an average of 36% of water is lost through leakage or other reasons for water non-revenue, the same amount of energy is wasted during the water cycle.

Consequently, improved water treatment operations and supply performance including leakage reduction, would result in significant savings in power consumption. The **Municipal Assistant™** system helps to achieve this by serving as a centralised databank that efficiently facilitates the management, administrative and operational functions of water care works and related activities.

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