

Water and Sanitation in the News

Dirty Listed Companies Hide the Truth

Some of South Africa's biggest listed companies are perennial breakers of environmental legislation, according to a comprehensive study by the nongovernmental Centre for Environmental Rights. Its "Full disclosure: The truth about corporate environmental compliance in South Africa" report looked at 20 of the largest listed companies in South Africa. Eleven work in the mining sector, while the rest are spread across other resource sectors.

The report found that companies such as Sappi, Sasol, ArcelorMittal and Exxaro had been found guilty of environmental offences between 2008 and 2014. The most common breaches were toxic spills, air pollution, unauthorised disposal of hazardous waste, and the contamination of soil, ground and water. Violations such as these are supposed to be reported by the companies to their shareholders. The fines involved present debts on the books and also possible liabilities in the future. All of these would damage share value and dividend payouts. But the report found that, "Many of these violations are not reported to the shareholders".

Tracey Davies, head of the centre's corporate accountability and transparency programme, said the irony was that many of the guilty companies were also listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange's Socially Responsible Investment Index. "Some of the best performers on the index also feature repeatedly on the list of companies facing enforcement action." This was because the index relies on voluntary submissions, she said. So, instead of reporting environmental failings to the process, the environmental centre's report found that companies kept mum and then used their presence on the investment index to promote their companies...

Source: *Mail & Guardian*, 08 September 2015

Preventative Maintenance Principles & Guidelines: Week 5

General Maintenance Guidelines

Numerous water and waste water treatment works and infrastructure (including reservoirs, pump stations, distribution network pipes, etc.) are much more than 20 years old. Consequently, most supplier's guarantees have expired, manuals are lost, and standard operating procedures are not in place, etc.

It is, however, important to start somewhere (with maintenance procedures), as all old equipment currently in use are still very critical to the delivery of sufficient quality & quantity drinking and treated waste water. In such cases, general maintenance guidelines should at least be applied.

For instance, some general guidelines obtained from assessing more than 50 municipalities and more than 200 WTW (Water Treatment Works) and WWTW (Waste Water Treatment Works), regarding motors are:



Motor maintenance - Monthly

- Clean any dirt/oil/contaminant
- Check for excessive current draw, vibration, noise & temp.
- Ensure mounting bolts are properly tightened
- Examine for any mechanical damage or corrosion
- Remove corrosion & paint
- Ensure free unobstructed ventilation

Motor maintenance – Annually (Depending on usage)

- Strip down motor, removing rotor from stator.
- Clean all parts thoroughly
- Examine bearings: if rough replace; alternatively clean & re-grease
- Measure winding insulation with insulation voltage tester, e.g. 500V Megger
- Replace oil seals
- Reassemble and ensure free rotation of shaft.

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

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