

Water and Sanitation in the News

DWS audits water quality at Wastewater treatment works

The Department of Water and Sanitation has initiated an independent conditional assessment of some the Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) that discharge their final effluent into the Vaal River. The condition assessment audit was initiated as a result of the deteriorating wastewater quality and state of the Vaal River system mainly due to sewage spills.



Mpumalanga municipalities

Lekwa and Msukaligwa Local Municipalities were targeted in the Mpumalanga Province in order to find long-lasting solutions to the problem of raw sewage spills in the Vaal River. The Department is currently in the process of finding ways to assist the municipalities to implement the recommendations of the audit report.

Some of the key findings of the report relate to lack of maintenance of the infrastructure, lack of human capacity and plants operating above their design capacity. The main contributing municipalities were identified and the audit conducted to establish the main challenges leading to the discharge of substandard effluent into the river system.

Gauteng

In Gauteng the assessment shows that the infrastructural state of some of the WWTWs are still in good condition. The Ennerdale WWTW is at an acceptable level with no major concerns according to the department. The short term requirement for this plant includes the installation of emergency storage to prevent contamination of ground water.

A study is being conducted to investigate the feasibility of this intervention which should be implemented in the next 12

months. At the Bushkoppies WWTW the effluent quality is also of acceptable standards. The only concern is sand ingress into the plant and its impact on sludge management. There are a number of projects currently underway to address some of the challenges, including:

- the upgrading of de-gritters to improve handling of sand from influent;
- replacing of compactor motor and gearbox service;
- construction of the drying beds for waste sand from Primary Sedimentation Tanks and de-gritters;
- Cleaning of the emergency dam and installation of linings and construction of an extra storage for digested sludge.

All these projects are currently being implemented and will be done in the next 12 months.

Source: Infrastructurenews.com, 15 February 2016

Given our vast existing database of water and waste water infrastructure in South Africa, WAMTechnology is both well-experienced and uniquely positioned to be able to determine trends regarding infrastructure condition (e.g. deterioration) and management (e.g. maintenance) developments in many parts of South Africa. During the past 6 years, WAMTech conducted detailed assessments with complete inventories of 102 water treatment works, 105 water pump stations, 236 reservoir, 99 bulk pipeline, 118 waste water works, and 263 waste water pump stations in South Africa.

Besides our civil engineering services, our WTW and WWTW asset and operational management system, the **Municipal Assistant™** uniquely combines into a single user friendly system the following core functionalities: Water quality monitoring and management; Evaluating and reporting compliance with regulatory water quality standards and criteria (e.g. Blue Drop and Green Drop specifications); Assists the user in the compilation of various reports (including a Blue Drop/Green Drop reporting facility); Asset management to ensure optimal performance of facilities to produce good quality drinking water and discharge; Operational and maintenance scheduling of equipment and staff utilisation; Assist with routine and process control inspections and incident reporting; and Compilation of operational and maintenance budgets to ensure timeous preventative maintenance and replacement of equipment.

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