

HONIARA FLOODING

HONIARA WATER SUPPLY

SITUATION REPORT

ISSUED 5 APRIL 2014 – DAY 0 + 1

Summary of Water Supply Status

- The floods have resulted in considerable damage to the water supply systems in Honiara.
- Maximum Post-event output is less than 30% of total maximum resource output and restricted in areas of supply (more detailed information will be provided in later reports).
- We believe that there will be many leakages due to damage to transmission pipes, distribution pipes and services to properties.
- The water supply system will remain under severe pressure to cope with minimal demand over the next 1 month.
- Bacteriological water quality cannot be guaranteed under present circumstances.
- Blockage of the sewerage systems may give rise to effluent discharge from sewers.
- Risks to health will remain elevated during the recovery period.

Water Sources – Condition and Status

1. Kongulai Source – The source is flooding and turbidity is high for supply as potable water. The site is presently inaccessible due to eroding of access road.

Gravity Supply (3000m³/day) – Feeds west Honiara and part of CBD – Currently OFF. It is possible that the water main has been damaged along its course which follows the river. Conditions are too dangerous to investigate until water subsides. Pipeline repairs may be required in difficult terrain. Estimated repair – 2 weeks.

Pumped Supply (12000m³/day) – Feeds along ridges to Tasahe, Titinge and Skyline. The pumping station is undamaged and may be operated when turbidity of water reduces sufficiently. This will depend on the absence of more heavy rainfall. The pipeline has been inspected today. Results not known at this time.

2. Tasahe – New JICA borefields (3200m³/day). About 60m of 200mm pipeline has been uncovered by eroding Pipe joints have broken and thrust blocks (to prevent movement of pipe) have been moved. This is difficult, steep terrain on which only manual labour can be used. Estimated repair – 2 weeks.
3. Titinge – New JICA Borefield (3200m³/day) – Electrical imbalance in the 3-phase power supply has prevented the source from being operated. Work by SW and SIEA apparently solved the problem late today. Hopefully the source will be at maximum possible production on Sunday,

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- 6 April. Site has operated for some time today at 50% capacity using standby generator. This operation leads us to assume that there is damage to a water main from Titinge Service Reservoir to the supply areas. If confirmed, estimated repair – 1 week depending on extent of damage.
4. Rove Gravity – Surface water source has been blocked by debris and is highly turbid. 12m of pipe have been damaged and require replacement. Survey has been completed today. Estimated repair – 1 week. Feeds Rove prison, CBD and hotels.
 5. Skyline – New JICA Borefield (3200m³/day) – The source has been operating at full capacity since 4 April.
 6. Tuveruhu – Currently not operating as it is suffering from electrical faults being investigated today. Up-date Sunday.
 7. Borderline – New JICA Borefield (3200m³/day) – we assume that this is operating at full capacity although reports of physical inspection have not yet been received. Confirm operation tomorrow.
 8. Kobito Borefield – (1290m³/day) – Operation commenced this morning.
 9. Kobito Spring – Surface water source prone to high turbidity. SW is using this source despite turbidity to enable us to feed No 9 Referral Hospital in place of the normal supply from Kongulai and Rove.
 10. Panatina Borefield (1300m³/day) – Operating using standby generator. Normally feeding Panatina, Ranadi and No 9 (by diversion).

Drinking Water Quality

1. SW will give top priority to disinfection of operating sources. Higher than normal chlorine residuals will be applied although this may give rise to taste problems. However, under current operating conditions we cannot guarantee the bacteriological safety of ANY water that we are supplying. SW has issued and will continue to issue “boiling orders” to the population. All water for human consumption must be boiled or treated with water purification tablets.

Sewerage Situation

1. Point Cruz effluent PS is currently stopped due to inundation of tank by debris and silt. Possible damage to electrical systems to be checked prior to operation.
2. Sewerage system will certainly suffer from blockages caused by silt and debris. We expect possible backing-up of the sewer network resulting in discharge from manholes and other openings. Potential health hazard.

Administration and Crisis Management

1. The Customer Care Centre at Point Cruz has been flooded and will be closed for at least 1 month. Alternative payment facilities will be provided at Hyundai Mall. We plan to transfer this activity to our new offices awaiting occupation in the BJS Building on a temporary basis.
2. The administrative office suffered no damage although the IT systems were removed temporarily to safeguard data. IT systems have been restored today.
3. A Crisis Management centre is being set up and a Crisis Management Team has been established with clearly defined responsibilities:

The team is led by the General Manager who will represent SW at NDMO and Ministry of Health.

The Finance & Administration Manager will act as Second-in-Command and be responsible for management of financial aspects of the crisis and support services.

The Operations & Technical Manager will coordinate water supply operations and the remedial works required. His teams are Water Source Operations Management, Network Operations, and Network Maintenance & Repair. Each has been allocated a dedicated team.

The Customer Care & Communications Manager will be responsible for all daily situational communications with media and stakeholders. All communications will be approved by the General Manager prior to publication.

4. Public Relations & Communications – SW is arranging for regular announcements to be made on radio, TV and in newspapers on the status of the water supply service and advice on the use of water. Regular daily up-dates will be issued to all relevant organisations.

Potential future problems

1. Increased leakage – as we bring our sources back into supply we expect that demand will be heavy due to a large number of new leaks and broken pipes and pipe joints. We will appeal to the public to report any leaks detected.
2. Rationing – Will be imposed in most areas to ensure that consumers receive at least a regular supply of water. The extent of rationing cannot be estimated at this time.
3. Revenue Deficit – We predict a deficit of revenue as the public recovers from the damage and losses. Government assistance may be required if revenue levels do not recover within a reasonable time.
4. Urgently required pipes, fittings and materials may need to be air-transported to Honiara. A “shopping list” of requirements is being compiled.

Richard Austin
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