



To: All News Editors

Thursday, January 28, 2010

CORPORATE AREA WATER SHORTAGE WORSENS

The National Water Commission (NWC) is reporting that continuing declines in raw water inflows into its largest Corporate Area Water Supply Systems have forced further adjustments in its previously imposed water management measures resulting in more customers served especially by the Hope, Mona, Seaview and Hermitage/Constant Spring Water Supply Systems experiencing longer periods of no water or low water pressure conditions.

NWC is receiving less than 3 million gallons out of a needed 6 million gallons at the Hope Filter Plant, only 9 million gallons out of a needed 18 million gallons at the Hermitage/Constant Spring System and only 9 million gallons of a needed 15 million gallons at the Mona System.

As a result of the worsening water situation, many customers in a number of areas including sections of Hope Pastures, Elletson Flats, August Town, Liguanea, premises along Hope Road and roads leading off as well as many areas around Cross Road and Downtown Kingston are now experiencing even further restrictions.

Like several other water supply systems in mainly southern parishes, the water supply systems serving the Corporate Area have been severely impacted by a prolonged period of below-normal rainfall caused by El Nino and other abnormal weather phenomena since last year.

According to NWC President, Mr. E. G. Hunter, the problem is that the dwindling inflows are not sufficient to meet the daily needs of all the customers to be served or to operate the systems

at their normal levels. Because the NWC can only provide the water that it has, this will result in severe shortages in some areas, regardless of the distribution regime that NWC puts in place.

Regrettably, the NWC further explains that depending on their location, elevation, distribution and the customer demand in a particular area, some customers will experience no water conditions or low water pressure even during the hours that the water facilities are putting out all the water they have available. This is primarily because of the nature of water supply distribution and the fact that the systems will not be able to operate at optimum while receiving only a fraction of the required volumes of water to distribute and because of the time it takes to charge the water supply mains in various areas.

The National Water Commission appeals for the continued cooperation and understanding of all its customers as these necessary measures are implemented to manage our dwindling water supplies. Customers are again urged to expect disruptions, store water and practice good conservation of the available supplies.

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