



**To: All News Editors**

**Tuesday, February 16, 2010**

## **IN SEARCH OF MORE WATER**

Minister of Water and Housing, Dr. Horace Chang, earlier today personally accompanied National Water Commission (NWC) President, Mr. E. G. Hunter and other executives of the NWC as well as representatives of Jamaica Water Supply Improvement Project (JSIP) contractor Vinci Corporation Limited in initiating the drilling of exploratory boreholes in the Temple Hall area of St. Andrew as the NWC continues its quest to identify and develop additional sources of water.

Dr. Chang and Mr. Hunter explained that the drilling of the boreholes represents the first step in developing and establishing 2 new well sources at Halls Green to provide a combined total of 2 million gallons of additional water each day. These new wells form part of the Jamaica Water Supply Improvement Project (JSIP) which will be implemented over the next 24-36 months. At a cost of US\$211M the Jamaica Water Supply Improvement Project is the largest and most expensive water supply project ever to be undertaken by the NWC and will provide an additional 20 million gallons of water each day to address the perennial water supply problems which for decades have plagued sections of the Kingston Metropolitan Area (KMA).

The project includes a number of discreet water supply project components and will benefit a number of different areas, including several rural communities by significantly increasing the percentage of rural households with access to reliable in-house potable water supply.

The major components of the Jamaica Water Supply Improvement Project are:

- Replacement of the old Rio Cobre pipeline, which brings water from Bog Walk along the Gorge to the KMA, in order to reduce leaks and improve supply reliability to the KMA;
- Rehabilitation of the Constant Spring Water Treatment Plant and the intakes providing water to the plant to restore production capacity and improve supply reliability;
- Rehabilitation of the Seaview Water Treatment Plant and the Stony Hill supply network in order to improve plant capacity and enhance supply reliability;
- Construction of new wells at Halls Green to provide additional potable water;
- Installation of approximately 75,000 customer meters in Ocho Rios and the KSA to more accurately determine consumption and reduce commercial losses;
- Construction of a new pipeline from Ferry to Red Hills to improve supply to the Red Hills area;
- Improvements to the Forest Hills supply network to replace old mains and reduce leakage;
- Construction of a new 15 mgd water treatment plant in Spanish Town to provide additional water to meet demand in the KMA;
- Implementation of a number of rural water supply projects in various parishes in an effort to increase rural supply coverage;
- Construction of irrigation facilities to make treated effluent from the recently completed Soapberry Sewage Treatment Plant available for irrigation to supplement irrigation water in the Rio Cobre canal.

The Minister of Water and Housing was assured by the NWC and the contractor that everything possible is being done to expedite the project and to deliver improved water supply to NWC customers in the shortest possible time.

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