



TO: All News Editors

Thursday, August 11, 2011

NWC CONTRACTOR COMPLETES GORGE WORK FOR RE-OPENING DEADLINE

After just over one month of the closure of the Bog Walk Gorge to facilitate the laying of pipeline under the Jamaica Water Supply Improvement Project (JWSIP), the National Water Commission is advising that its Contractor – Vinci Construction Grands Projects – has now completed the required work in the thoroughfare to allow for the promised re-opening today (Thursday, August 11, 2011).

While acknowledging that there has been a one week delay on this component of the project, due to a combination of unfortunate developments including road reinstatement setbacks occasioned by the breakdown of the asphalt mixing plant over the weekend, challenges encountered in completing a short section of pipeline interconnection and NWC's paramount concern that safe driving conditions be fully restored, among other things, the National Water Commission is satisfied that the roadway has now been restored.

During the additional period of closure the NWC undertook the following works:-

- completion of the pipe laying interconnection exercise;
- completion of the construction of the valve and other chambers along the corridor;
- repairing 3 leaks discovered on the existing active pipeline in the Gorge;
- repaving of approximately 1 km of the south bound lane from Raby's Corner to Flat Bridge; and
- white line re-marking of sections of the roadway.

In addition to this, at its own expense, NWC in restoring the roadway to this satisfactory condition undertook:

- the improvement of the undisturbed road surface which had deteriorated from natural condition for approximately 2km in the north bound lane between Kent Village and Bog Walk at the NWA's request;
- removal of debris from a landslip and other sources along the Gorge corridor;
- sweeping and clearing the 6 km extent of the Bog Walk Gorge to remove the natural build-up of dust, gravel and other material; and,

During the period of closure, the National Water Commission also had expended significant sums, through the National Works Agency (NWA), to facilitate repairs to the alternative route through Barry.

Pipeline Replacement component of the Jamaica Water Supply Improvement Project (JWSIP) is aimed at saving nearly 2 million gallons of daily losses from the old pipeline, reduce the inconvenience caused by frequent breaks and repair efforts and significantly improve supply reliability to the areas in St. Catherine and the KMA served by the pipeline.

The JWSIP is the single largest comprehensive water supply improvement project ever done by the National Water Commission to provide more water to more Jamaicans and to improve the reliability and quality of the water being supplied particularly to. Overall cost of the JWSIP is US\$211 Million.

There are several components to the JWSIP now being implemented. These include:

- Replacement of the old, leaky Rio Cobre pipeline, which brings water along the Bog Walk Gorge to other sections of St. Catherine and 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 and service quality;
- Rehabilitation of the Seaview Water Treatment Plant and the Stony Hill supply network in order to improve plant capacity and enhance supply reliability and service quality;
- Construction of new water supply arrangements to provide additional potable water in the Halls Green, Temple Hall area of St. Andrew;
- Commercial improvement activities including the installation of approximately 75,000 customer meters in several parishes to more accurately determine consumption and reduce commercial losses;

According to one evidently elated motorist, when asked what the reopening of the roadway meant to her, "I am very relieved that the Gorge is now open since my travelling time from Linstead to Spanish Town will be considerably reduced. I will be able to get to sleep a little while longer now".

The National Water Commission (NWC) sincerely apologises for the inconvenience experienced by members of the motoring public during the period of the work and thanks all for their patience, consideration and cooperation as we continue to contribute to national development.

Additionally, the NWC wishes to thank the National Works Agency, the Ministry of Transport and Works and the Ministry of Housing, Environment and Water for their cooperation and support.

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Contact: Corporate Public Relations
929 -1128