



To: All News Editors

Thursday, June 3, 2010

MINISTER TOURS OFF-LOADING OF PIPES FOR JWSIP

Minister of Water and Housing, Dr. Horace Chang, along with other officials of his ministry and the National Water Commission (NWC) today (Thursday, June 03, 2010) toured the site in Bogwalk, St. Catherine where the first batch of 600mm diameter ductile iron pipes to be used as part of the National Water Commission's Jamaica Water Supply Improvement Project (JWSIP) were being off-loaded from shipping containers.

Dr. Chang took the opportunity to get an update on the progress of the Jamaica Water Supply Improvement Project (JWSIP) and said the delivery and off-loading of the pipes represented another step in the process of implementing the largest and single most critical water supply project by the National Water Commission to address the perennial problem of water shortage affecting much of the Corporate Area.

The pipes were being off-loaded at a temporary storage yard in Bogwalk after being received at the wharf as part of 20 containers of large diameters pipes being delivered from the USA. These pipes will be used to construct about 6km of new pipeline through the Bogwalk Gorge starting in July. This new pipeline will replace the existing pipeline in the gorge that is old and leaking.

Also present on the tour were Minister of State in the Ministry of Water and Housing Mr. Everaldo Warmington; Permanent Secretary Mrs. Genefa Hibbert; NWC Chairman Mr. Russell Hadeed; NWC Commissioner Mr. Alston Douglas; NWC Chief Engineer and Senior Vice President Mr. Franklin Williams; NWC Senior Project Manager Mr. Garth Jackson; Mr. Timothee Delebarre of Vinci Construction; and Mr. Barry Shorthouse of Tankweld Special Projects.

Background

The major components of the Jamaica Water Supply Improvement Project (JWSIP) include:

- Replacement of the Rio Cobre Pipeline;
- Rehabilitation of the Constant Spring and Seaview Water Treatment Plants;
- new wells at Halls Green;
- Installation of approximately 70,000 customer meters in Ocho Rios and the KSA;
- New Ferry to Red Hills Pipeline and improvements to the Forest Hills supply network;
- New 15 mgd water treatment plant in Spanish Town to provide additional water to meet demand in the KMA;
- A select number of identified projects in several rural parishes.

Once completed, the JWSIP will also result in:

- Provision of nearly 20 mgd of additional potable water to the KMA which would result in the elimination of major water lock offs in the area due to supply shortage;
- Reduction of system losses and improvement in the operating efficiencies of NWC;
- Facilitation of major developments in the KMA which would otherwise not be possible including planned developments for Caymanas and Hellshire areas;
- Increase in the supply of potable water to rural areas.

The overall cost of the JWSIP is equivalent to US\$211 million or J\$19 billion and is being financed through loan funds being negotiated from a combination of local and overseas commercial bank loans, contractor loan contribution and NWC revenue allocation.

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