

September 21, 2004

SPECIAL HURRICANE IVAN RECOVERY UPDATE

NWC OVER THREE QUARTERS OF PRODUCTION CAPACITY

The NWC now has more than 200 water supply systems - including most of its larger systems - producing approximately 80% of its normal water production capacity across the country following the devastation and disruptions caused by Hurricane Ivan.

These systems now back in operation include most of the Commission's largest and most critical water supply systems across the island using restored JPSCo power, standby generators or diesel units where available, or gravity flow distribution.

At the same time, the public is reminded that not all persons and areas normally served by a particular water supply system are necessarily receiving service immediately after the restoration of a system into operation. This may be due to a number of reasons including that the system needs to be 'fully charged', broken mains or dislocated pipelines, no power at a required relift pumping station, or blocked mains. Additionally customers may receive low water pressure and intermittent supply. Persons are encouraged to continue to store and conserve on their use of water especially since the piped supply received may be inconsistent.

The NWC will over the next several days the National Water Commission will need to flush and bleed sections of its distribution networks to clear them of sediments and air blockages. The public is therefore advised not to be alarmed if they were to see water being flushed from hydrants as this will be necessary to clear air blockages and to undertake other necessary repairs to the distribution network.

The National Water Commission continues to work to restore piped water supply to all areas in the shortest possible time.

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