

September 19, 2004

SPECIAL HURRICANE IVAN RECOVERY UPDATE

NWC WATER PRODUCTION NOW AT A HIGH LEVEL

The National Water Commission is now producing approximately 70%-75% of the water it normally produces as it puts back into operation most of its major water supply systems across the island, either using restored JPSCo. power, standby generators or gravity flows. This is the estimate provided by the Commission's President, Mr. E. G. Hunter, as he gave an update on the restoration efforts on the weekend.

The National Water Commission now has approximately two hundred (200) water supply and wastewater systems back in operation, but these include its largest and most critical facilities accounting for a large part of the Commission's daily production volumes.

These large facilities that account for the bulk of the Commission's water production that are now in operation include Constant Spring, Mona, Hope and Seaview Water Treatment Plants in Kingston and St. Andrew; Tulloch Springs and Eastern Headworks/Augmentation Wells in St. Catherine; Roaring River and Bulstrode in Westmoreland; Logwood in Hanover; Great River in St. James; Martha Brae # 1 and 2 in Trelawny; and Bogue in St. Ann.

While noting the high percentage of production volume back in operation, Mr. Hunter was quick to indicate that the distribution to customers was not as good since 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 need to be replaced or repaired; power still needed at a required relief pumping station; or blocked mains needing to be cleared. Additionally some customers will receive low water pressure and intermittent supply. Persons are therefore encouraged to continue to store and conserve on their use of water.

Mr. Hunter also explained that 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 is therefore now concentrating on those remaining water supply systems still not in operation, albeit of ten not as large as one's already in operation, and to effect all necessary energizing and repairs to the distribution network so that all the water being produced or treated is delivered to the customer. Trucking operations are also now able to be prioritized in those areas not yet receiving piped supply.

While restoration time is still not entirely up to the Commission, the National Water Commission expects that it will be able to begin supplying water from several more water supply systems virtually on an hourly basis as the combined efforts of the JPSCo to provide power, the NWA to provide access and the NWC itself to effects repairs and initiate operations continue to bear fruit.

While priorities have been established based on the size of the water supply system, the number of customers and critical facilities served (such as hospitals), the National Water Commission continues to work with all available resources to restore water to all areas.

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