

September 18, 2004

SPECIAL HURRICANE IVAN RECOVERY UPDATE

STILL MORE NWC SYSTEMS COME ON STREAM

As at Friday night, more than 170 water supply and wastewater systems operated by the National Water Commission are confirmed to be at least partially back in operation as a result of strenuous efforts to restore normality to its operations that were severely affected by Hurricane Ivan.

The 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. 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 Bullstrode in Westmoreland; Logwood in Hanover; Great River in St. James; Martha Brae # 1 and 2 in Trelawny; and Bogue in St. Ann.

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, intermittent supply and, in some instances, discoloured water. Persons are encouraged to continue to store and conserve on their use of water especially since the piped supply received may be inconsistent.

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, in instances along with Jamaica Public Service Company (JPSCo), the National Works Agency (NWA) and others to restore piped water supply to all areas in the shortest possible time.

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