

INTERNET ARTICLE

NWRI: Central Operation gives Sterkfontein Dam a boost.

27 September 2017

The Sterkfontein Dam in Harrismith, Free State, recently received a major boost when the Department of Water and Sanitation completed one of its electrical infrastructure projects in the dam. The dam was built in 1980 and it was raised in 1986.

The purpose of the project was to supply and install 11KV cable from the gang links to the tower of the Sterkfontein Dam.

It is one of the dams that falls under the Directorate NWRI: Central Operation in Tugela Vaal Water Project and located on the Nuwejaar Spruit River.

The dam has capacity of 2616.90 and it has earth fill wall type. The main purpose of the dam is for domestic and industrial use and occasionally it supplies Vaal Dam when it runs low. Sterkfontein dam is very unique because of its structural built and it was not built on a river.

The catchment area of the dam is less than three times the water surface area of the dam and therefore not risk to a flood. For this reason the main dam is one of the largest water storage reservoirs without a spillway

The department of Water and Sanitation recently completed one of its Electrical infrastructure projects in the dam.

According to the project manager, Mr Ndamase the projects was a success and there were no serious challenges during the installation of the cables in the dam.

"As we are all aware of the drought situation in our country, the installation of the 11KV cable from the gang links to the tower of the dam by the department will improve the water supply and working condition of the dam", said Ndamase.

The department's weekly dam levels report indicates that current water in the Sterkfontein Dam is 2434.22%. Last year by this time the dam was 90.3% full, last week it was on 92.7% and by 25 September 2017 the dam was 93.0% full.

Emmah Maluleke