



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Kriel water supply restored ahead of schedule

9 March 2015

The water supply to Kriel in Emalahleni Local Municipality, Mpumalanga, was successfully restored on Friday, 6 March 2015, well ahead of the scheduled date, according to a media statement released by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS).

The outage was planned to end on 9 March 2015.

Kriel experienced a water outage due to the Eskom construction of a railway line from Ermelo to Majuba Power Station. The railway line crosses the Department of Water and Sanitation's pipeline between Rietspruit reservoir and Davel.

This outage provided DWS with an opportunity to do maintenance work and repair leaks and replace valves on the pipeline. As the DWS is mandated to ensure security of water supply for all facets of the lives and livelihoods of South Africans, part of this mandate includes regular maintenance of its infrastructure throughout the country.

Regular scheduled and planned maintenance is crucial to ensure an increased lifespan, as well as reliable and effective performance of water infrastructure, which includes ensuring sustainable water supply for current and future generations. It is important to ensure that communities experience minimal disruptions as they are consulted and engaged throughout the process and alternative supply is provided.

During the course of this outage, the community of Kriel was supplied with water through 31 strategically placed Jojo tanks, which were regularly supplied by 15 water tankers.

All water users were timeously informed of the complete plans of the department as a result of prior consultation with the municipalities and communities. As such no undue ill-feelings and lacks of communication were experienced throughout the period of the outage.

The department continues to take vital lessons from these experiences that proper planning and execution, along with community consultation, cannot be underestimated. This experience will remain part of the department's standing operations as further planned and needed outages on other pipelines continue to be rolled out.

Ike Motsapi & S A News

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