

WATER QUALITY AWARENESS PROGRAMME

- Water Quality awareness programmes are conducted as part of the IDP process road shows in all six KZ nodes
- Schools are visited during National Water Week
- The municipality has printed WATER AWARENESS booklets which are distributed to prioritized areas in terms of municipal programmes eg. Meter installation, new sanitation projects, etc.

WATER QUALITY TESTING AND REPORTING

Water quality testing is done in terms of SANS 241

The municipality is using an independent laboratory managed by an international company, Bureau Veritas (Pty) Ltd

This company is responsible for both sampling and processing of samples

It is important to mention that sampling is done twice per month, one test more than DWAF requires

- The results are submitted electronically to DWAF using the Water Quality website
- Parallel to the submission to DWAF, these results are forwarded to the municipality for verification and rectification
- Any anomalies are immediately attended to and corrective measures implemented on affected sites and submitted to DWAF.

SHORT TERM INTERVENTIONS

- Once an anomaly has been detected, the cause is interrogated and appropriate interventions are implemented
- In most cases a dose on chlorine is used
- Where conditions permit, the municipality has installed in-line chlorinators
- In other areas water is treated at the reservoir level using chlorine tablets in floating baskets
- Where it is deemed impractical to do any treatment, the borehole is capped and water then supplied by tanker.
- Currently there are over 25 water schemes falling under this category.

MUNICIPAL TECHNICAL CAPACITY

- The municipality has provided all schemes that have purification plants with test meters which are used to check chlorine levels, PH and turbidity levels on a daily basis
- These are compared with the acceptable limits and any variances corrected immediately
- The current service provider (WSSA) has appointed a full time water quality specialist for random sampling and daily inspections
- Uthungulu has appointed a full time technician to manage and monitor water quality processes

MUNICIPAL TECHNICAL CAPACITY

- All water released from the sewer plants is pre-treated before being discharged
- Challenges in this regard are the ageing infrastructures of schemes which result in leaks at sewer settling ponds (Eshowe and Melmoth)
- The municipality continues to chlorinate water leaving the plants and treats the river banks for a distance of 500m from the plants which are continually monitored.

AVAILABLE FUNDING FOR WATER QUALITY

1. Sampling and processing:

The municipality makes an annual provision of:

- R1million under the WSSA budget
- R500 000.00 for the treatment of river banks and sewer ponds (Nkandla and Eshowe)

2. Internal interventions:

- R1 million under the O&M vote for water quality management
- uThungulu requires R98 million to deal with sewer related problems throughout the district

WATER QUALITY SUCCESSES

Uthungulu Municipality as a WSA has been able to prevent incidents of cholera.

Stats from the Dept of Health (Emp) indicate only three incidents over the past three years

The municipality received an award in February 2008 from SALGA for the most improved WSA

Letters of appreciation from DWAF for timeous water quality submission

Maintaining a success rate of over 80% on water quality passes since January 2006.



End

THANK YOU