



MEDIA RELEASE

Embargo: Immediate

DATE: 9 January, 2017

Water pipe breaks and turbid water

Greater Knysna residents have recently experienced sporadic water outages resulting from water pipe breaks within the area's water system.

"Most of our water pipe breaks can be attributed to the increase in higher velocities within the pipes due to a much higher demand placed on our water system," said the Knysna Acting Municipal Manager, Johnny Douglas.

He added that drier soil conditions further contributed to these breaks as the drier soil caused movement in the soil surrounding these water pipes. Once water was restored the flow from the taps appeared turbid.

This brown water can be attributed to various factors, such as the pipe break within the town's water system.

"The increase in velocities and air entering through the water system, after a break in a pipe, has a scouring effect on the preventative layer within the pipe. This results in the water's aesthetics [its clear colour] changing. In other words, the water turns brown," explained Douglas.

He added that, due to these pipes operating at maximum capacity, the water's colour can further be attributed to an increase of velocities within the pipes, also creating a scouring inside these pipes.

"The aesthetically changes to the water can also be caused by a low pH, which can affect certain elements, resulting in these elements being deposited in our pipes.

"All these instances can change the colour of the water. However is important to note that the Knysna Water Treatment Works continues to operate within the required SANS 241 specification for potable water, ensuring safe potable water for our resident.

"Note that this water is still safe to drink, as the water from the Water Treatment Works, have free dissolve chlorine in the water" concluded Douglas.

ENDS

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