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## Penang to face major water supply disruption in April



GEORGE TOWN: About 337,000 water consumers on both the mainland and the island will be affected by a scheduled water supply interruption (SWSI) lasting between 24 and 48 hours at the end of April.

The interruption is necessary to facilitate final connection works for Penang's new RM8.7 million (Phase 1) Sungai Prai river-crossing (SP-RCP) pipeline in Seberang Prai.

Penang Water Supply Corporation (PBAPP) chief executive officer Datuk K. Pathmanathan said PBAPP planned to carry out the final connection works for Penang's new SP-RCP section at Ampang Jajar, Seberang Prai Tengah, on April 25.

"When completed, the 1.35m SP-RCP will support a maximum treated water pumping capacity of 247 MLD (million litres per day).

"It will enable safer and more efficient pumping of a higher volume of treated water from the Sungai Dua Water Treatment Plant (WTP) to meet future water demand on the mainland and Penang island (via twin submarine pipelines)," he said in a statement today.

Laid on its own supporting structure about five metres above the surface of Sungai Prai, the SP-RCP will replace two temporary 600mm pipelines currently installed along the Ampang Jajar vehicular bridge.

"As of Feb 1, the SP-RCP project is progressing as scheduled, having reached the 70 per cent completion mark.

"The SP-RCP pipeline section is part of a major water supply pipeline spanning from the Sungai Dua WTP (Penang's most important WTP) in Seberang Prai Utara to Sungai Prai in Seberang Prai Tengah.

"PBAPP is providing early notice of the scheduled final connection works because it will affect water supply to about 337,000 consumers across all five districts of the state, including the majority of industrial water users in Bayan Lepas, Prai, Bukit Minyak, and Batu Kawan," he said.

Pathmanathan said PBAPP would need to temporarily shut down sections of the Seberang Prai Utara - Seberang Prai Tengah pipeline on April 25 to facilitate the final connection works, as well as testing and commissioning processes.

During the water supply downtime, PBAPP will also carry out urgent remedial works to repair a leaking 1.2m pipeline at another riverside location - Jalan Pengkalan Tambang in Seberang Prai Utara, near the Sungai Dua WTP.

Like the SP-RCP, these remedial works will help improve the efficiency of water pumping from Penang's most critical WTP.

Once PBAPP resumes full pumping of treated water from Sungai Dua, consumers located closer to the SP-RCP site will experience water supply recovery earlier than those situated further away, he said.

"In short, as with previous SWSIs involving treated water from the Sungai Dua WTP, recovery for 'upstream consumers' will be faster than for 'downstream consumers'.

"This is an early notice of a planned SWSI in Penang, scheduled to take place after the 2025 Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebrations.

"It has been issued under the directive of Penang Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow. "However, the actual dates and times of the SWSI are subject to the completion of all necessary preparatory site works as scheduled.

"PBAPP must ensure that all preparatory works are in place to minimise inconvenience to affected consumers and ensure water supply recovery proceeds as planned," he said.

Pathmanathan said that if there were delays in the SP-RCP final connection works due to unforeseen circumstances, the SWSI would also be postponed. "PBAPP cannot compromise on engineering integrity and safety," he said.

Ahead of the implementation of the SP-RCP SWSI, PBAPP will issue a map of the affected areas, provide more specific details, share updates on site works, and issue reminders for consumers to store water in March and April 2025.