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Media Release

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**SUNGAI PERAI: PIPELINE STILL LEAKING AFTER UNDERWATER WELDING.
PBAPP WILL STILL PUMP WATER FROM SEBERANG PERAI TO PENANG
ISLAND UNTIL 8.00 PM TODAY**

- **Underwater welding operation completed. However, when PBAPP started pumping water at 11.40am, a leak was spotted on the water surface.**
- **PBAPP will continue to pump water to affected areas on the South-West District (DBD) despite the leak, until 8.00pm today.**
- **After 8.00pm, PBAPP will implement “Plan B”: Installation of a steel plate that will be clamped down to plug the leak.**

PENANG, Thursday, 21 December 2023: Perbadanan Bekalan Air Pulau Pinang Sdn Bhd (PBAPP) has initiated its “Plan B” option at the Sungai Perai underwater pipeline repair site. There is still a leak from the riverbed pipeline after the completion of underwater welding works.

At 11.40am this morning, PBAPP started pumping treated water through the 1,350mm pipeline. However, a leak was detected with water gushing on the surface of the river.

Despite the leak and water loss, PBAPP is continuing to pump treated water to areas on the South-West District (DBD) of Penang Island. Consumers in DBD should continue to receive water supply, albeit at lower water pressures, until 8.00pm.

We would like to request for DBD water consumers to refill their water tanks and containers before 8.00pm today, while they have water supply. An emergency fleet of more than 10 water tankers will be deployed to send water to the end-of-line (EoL) and higher ground areas this afternoon. We will update the tanker schedules via FB postings.

Plan B: Clamping a Steel Plate to the Leaking Underwater Pipe Section

PBAPP is initiating its “Plan B” Option at the Sungai Perai worksite. Instead of more underwater welding, a crane and a team of commercial divers will be deployed to place and clamp a steel plate on the section of the 1,350mm pipeline that is leaking.

This plate and clamp option should be more robust to withstand the high water pumping pressures. There may be still some minimal leakage. However, in light of today's emergency response scenario, this is the most rational engineering solution, in terms of response time and potential result.

The plate and 4-piece clamp will be locked down with big nuts and bolts. All these parts are being custom fabricated for deployment today. A crane will be deployed to carefully place the parts in place in the water. Commercial divers will then position and lockdown the clamp underwater.

The underwater clamping down operations are scheduled to commence at 8.30pm today, after the pipeline is shut down at 8.00pm. The plate and clamp cannot be installed if water is being pumped through the leaking section of the pipeline.

Scheduled water supply interruption in the South-West District of Penang Island: 8.00pm, 21.12.2023 – 8.00am, 22.12.2023

As such, there will be a planned and scheduled water supply interruption that will affect about 120,000 consumers in DBD on Penang Island from 8.00pm today. There will be no water supply to affected consumers until the completion of the underwater clamping down operations.

Please refer to "Appendix A" for the full list of affected areas.

PBAPP will update affected consumers on the progress of work at Sungai Perai. Our target is to complete Plan B and normalise water supply for all affected consumers before 8.00am tomorrow (22.12.2023).

On behalf of PBAPP, I apologise to all the affected water consumers.

Repair work and normalisation of water supply is taking longer than expected because this is an emergency response scenario involving a large diameter pipeline segment submerged in a river. We have encountered issues which we would not have faced on land.

Thank You for your patience and understanding.

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