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Media Release

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SUNGAI PERAI: “SHORTEST AND LEAST INCONVENIENT” SCHEDULED WATER SUPPLY INTERRUPTION (SWSI) TO CONNECT THE REPLACEMENT TWIN 600MM PIPELINES

PENANG, Saturday, 20.1.2024: Perbadanan Bekalan Air Pulau Pinang Sdn Bhd (PBAPP) will plan “the shortest and least inconvenient” scheduled water supply interruption for the connection of 2 x 600mm pipelines at Sungai Perai to replace the leaking 1,350mm underwater pipeline section.

PBAPP will present its SWSI recommendations to the Penang State Executive Council (State EXCO) on Wednesday, 24.1.2024.

Our recommended date(s) will be based on the following 6 key factors:

- 1) Projected schedule and duration of diversion works and pipeline shutdown.
- 2) Earliest possible notice to affected consumers.
- 3) Chinese New Year celebrations from 10.2.2024.
- 4) Risks of delaying pipeline works until after Chinese New Year.
- 5) Volume of leakage from the leaking underwater pipeline and projected high consumption of water before and during Chinese New Year celebrations.
- 6) Contingency plans for potential mishaps.

The commissioning of the 2 x 600mm pipelines adjacent to the Ampang Jajar Bridge is an “interim solution” that will address the risks of a bigger leak from the leaking Sungai Perai underwater pipeline that may affect water supply for 120,000 consumers, mainly in Daerah Barat Daya (DBD) on Penang Island.

As at today, PBAPP is incurring a leak of 154 milion litres per day (MLD) from the underwater pipeline. With the commissioning of the 2 x 600mm pipelines that are above the waterline, this underwater pipeline will be decommissioned (not used).

PBAPP is also seeking approval from its Board of Directors and the Penang State Government to start work on a new 1350mm “river-crossing pipeline” with its own supporting structure immediately, as a “permanent solution.”

This permanent solution is necessary because we need a new 1,350mm pipeline section that can handle more high pressure water flow than 2 x 600mm pipelines. Moreover, we cannot permanently load pipelines and water mass to the Ampang Jajar Bridge, in the interests of public safety and public water supply security.

The targeted timeframe for the “river crossing pipeline” solution is 4 to 6 months if it can be expedited on grounds of water supply priority and protecting the interests of Penang water consumers.

Thank You.

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