

21.2.2024

Media Release

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REPORTED FARM DISCHARGE INTO SUNGAI KULIM: NO DETECTABLE EFFECT ON TREATED WATER QUALITY IN PENANG

- **Sungai Kulim is a raw water resource that is tapped to refill the Expanded Mengkuang Dam (EMD) and produce treated water daily at the Bukit Toh Allang Water Treatment Plant in Seberang Perai Utara.**
- **To date, water test data have NOT revealed any significant treated water quality issue.**

PENANG, Wednesday, 21.2.2024: PBAPP has not detected any significant change in the quality of the treated water that is supplied in Penang resulting from the reported discharge of farm waste into Sungai Kulim, a raw water resource in Seberang Perai.

Water quality tests are jointly conducted by the Health Department of Penang and PBAPP. This procedure ensures that PBAPP treated water complies with the Quality Assurance Programme (QAP) parameters set by the Ministry of Health, Malaysia (MOH).

Key water testing parameters		MOH QAP
1.	Free Chlorine	1.85%
2.	E-Coli	0.15%
3.	Residual chlorine + E. Coli	0.05%
4.	NTU (turbidity)	2.00%
5.	Aluminium	10.00%

PBAPP tests the quality of raw water abstracted from all raw water resources in Penang, as well as treated water from all its water treatment plants (WTPs).

Over the past 10 days, the results of PBAPP’s tests have NOT revealed any major violation of the water test parameters set by the MOH. As such, it appears that the reported farm discharge has NOT affected treated water quality in Penang.

We will continue to be vigilant in monitoring water quality. The PBAPP Central Laboratory in Sungai Dua is a 6-time recipient of the “IKM Excellence Award” that recognises its competency and accomplishments in the field of water testing.

PBAPP would like to assure all water consumers in Penang that we will report any water quality issues detected in a precise and prompt manner.

Sungai Kulim as a raw water resource

The following facts outline the importance of Sungai Kulim as a raw water resource for Penang:

1. During wet seasons, the raw water from Sungai Kulim is pumped to refill the 86.4 billion litre Expanded Mengkuang Dam (EMD), Penang’s largest dam.
2. On a daily basis, raw water from Sungai Kulim is abstracted for treatment at the Bukit Toh Allang WTP in Seberang Perai Utara (SPU). This WTP produces 40 million litres of water per day (MLD) which is supplied to 17,462 water consumers nearby.
3. The primary raw water resource for the Sungai Dua WTP, Penang’s most important WTP, is Sungai Muda and NOT Sungai Kulim.

Surveillance and protection

PBAPP’s primary responsibility is to continuously supply safe and clean treated water to 689,786 water consumers in Penang. To fulfil this responsibility well, PBAPP needs access to the cleanest raw water available.

However, PBAPP is a licensed water supply operator and not a regulatory body.

As such, we highly appreciate the prompt and decisive actions taken by the Penang State Government to reveal the actual source and cause of the reported pollution of Sungai Kulim. We hope the appropriate regulatory actions will be taken to consistently survey and protect Penang’s raw water resources such as rivers and streams.

Thank You.

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