

19.1.2026
 Media Release

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1st MAJOR PIPELINE CONNECTION PROJECT IN PENANG WITHOUT A WATER SUPPLY INTERRUPTION

- **Second Sungai Perai River-Crossing Pipeline at Sungai Dua will be connected using “hot tapping” and “line stopping” technology.**
- **No SWSI for about 26,000 water consumers in Seberang Perai Utara and Seberang Perai Tengah.**

PENANG, Monday, 19.1.2026: For the first time in the history of water supply in Penang, a major 900mm pipeline connection project will be carried out without the inconvenience of a scheduled water supply interruption (SWSI).

On 28.1.2026, PBAPP will carry out the final connection works for the new RM3.2 million river-crossing pipeline section in Sungai Dua, Seberang Perai Utara (SPU). This is the second Sungai Perai River-Crossing Pipeline project to be completed in 2 years.

“Hot tapping” and “line stopping” technology will be deployed to avoid shutting down a pipeline that supplies treated water from the Sungai Dua Water Treatment Plant (WTP) to areas in Seberang Perai Utara (SPU) and Seberang Perai Tengah (SPT).

As such, about 26,000 water consumers in SPU and SPT will avoid a potential 24-48 hour SWSI.

“Line stopping” & “hot tapping” technology

PBAPP has engaged a specialist contractor to carry out the final connection works of the Sungai Perai River-Crossing Pipeline 2 as follows:

27.1.2026 (Tuesday)	
Preparatory “line stopping” work	Parts of an old pipeline section (to be replaced) will be encased in a hot tapping sleeve. “Line stopping” machines are mounted on the sleeves to re-direct water flow via a temporary bypass pipeline using gate valves.

28.1.2026 (Wednesday): Final connection works		
1.	“Hot tapping” and conventional pipe cutting	The “hot tapping” machine, mounted on another hot tapping sleeve section, can cut a pipeline from inside the sleeve in watertight condition.
2.	Temporary water flow bypass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gate valves closed, stopping water flow through the cut pipe section when the hot tapping machine retracted. “Line stopping” machines re-direct water flow to a temporary bypass pipeline. Hence, no need to shut down water supply.
3.	Removal of “old pipeline” section	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> De-watering old pipeline Usage of a heavy-duty crane to lift and place pipeline sections. 4 welders to expedite welding works. “Air test” after welding works. Gate valves opened to enable water flow through the new pipeline section.
4.	Installation and connection of new pipeline section (welding)	
5.	Installation of blank flanges	To enable 610mm manhole access into the new pipeline section in the future.
29.1.2026 (Thursday)		
Uninstallation of the line stopping machines		Completion of final connection works.

Key project details

The 28.1.2026 final connection works will take place near two restaurants in Sungai Dua: Restoran Sri Tambang and Restoran Aur Gading.

PBAPP's estimated cost for trying out “line stopping” & “hot tapping” technologies is RM800,00.00 (as compared to about RM80,000 for conventional final connection works). The “pay-off” is no SWSI for 26,000 water consumers.

If the Sungai Perai River-Crossing Pipeline 2 final connection works are successfully implemented on schedule and without issues, PBAPP will consider re-deploying such technologies in future scenarios.

There should be little doubt that “line stopping” & “hot tapping” is more convenient for Penang water consumers and PBAPP.

However, future deployments must be subject to the following key considerations: costs, timelines, type and size of pipelines, the number of beneficiaries (water consumers) and sizes of work sites.

Play it safe: Please store water for 24 hours' use

On 28.1.2026, “line stopping” & “hot tapping” will be deployed for the first time in Penang.

The specialist company has successfully carried out such work in other states. Our final connection works in Penang should be completed without a water supply interruption.

Nevertheless, we seek the kind cooperation of water consumers in the following areas to store some water for use over 24 hours from 28.1.2026 to 29.1.2026, in case of unforeseen mishaps:

- SPU: Sungai Dua
- SPT: Alma, Bukit Mertajam (including Pekan Bukit Mertajam), Bukit Minyak, Bukit Teh, Cherok Tokun, Kampung Baru, Kampung Kota, Kota Permai, Machang Bubok, Padang Lalang, Penanti, Permatang Pasir, Sungai Rambai, Taman Bukit, Taman Bukit Indah, Taman Sentosa.

Thank You.

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