

29.1.2026
Media Release

DATO' IR. PATHMANATHAN K.
CEO, PBAPP and PBAHB.

PENANG'S 1st "NO SWSI" PIPELINE CONNECTION WORKS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED

- **New 2nd Sungai Perai River Crossing Pipeline functioning fully.**
- **No major water issues reported in SPU and SPT on 27.1.2026 and 28.1.2026.**
- **PBAPP will comply with the Penang Chief Minister's directive in regard to "No SWSI" major pipeline connections in Penang as far as possible.**

PENANG, Thursday, 29.1.2026: The success of the 2nd Sungai Perai River Crossing Pipeline (2nd SP-RCP) final connection works will spur PBAPP to plan all future major pipeline connection works without scheduled water supply interruptions (SWSIs).

The 900mm 2nd SP-RCP will go down in history as the first major pipeline section that was connected in Penang with "no SWSI".

With the implementation of "line stopping" and "hot tapping" technology on 27.1.2026 and 28.1.2026, this RM3.2 million river-crossing pipeline section has been commissioned without inconveniencing about 26,000 water consumers in Seberang Perai Utara (SPU) and Seberang Perai Tengah (SPT).

By deploying these technologies, PBAPP has managed to save time and resources.

We avoided the processes of closing valves to shut down a major pipeline, dewatering the pipeline, waiting for the work site to be drained to start work, re-opening valves and carrying out de-airing works at multiple sites to fully recover water supply services.

As such, 2nd SP-RCP final connection works were completed ahead of time, at 10.00pm yesterday, about 24 hours ahead of schedule.

The flip-side is the cost. It cost about RM800,000 to complete the 2nd SP-RCP connection as compared to RM80,000 for a normal final connection with a SWSI.

Following the Chief Minister's Directive

Yesterday, during a site inspection, Penang Chief Minister YAB Tuan Chow Kon Yeow directed PBAPP to follow a “No SWSI” protocol for all future major pipeline works, subject to the following considerations:

- Avoidance of a SWSI that may affect 20,000 water consumers or more;
- Projected work time lasting 18 hours or more; and
- Major pipelines only, with diameters measuring 600mm or more.

PBAPP will comply with YAB Tuan Chow's directive. We will plan ahead to minimise inconveniences and optimise good results.

However, on the engineering side, we will also have plan around other considerations such as the location and size of the worksite. We may not be able to deploy “line stopping” and “hot tapping” technologies in densely developed and populated areas where there is not enough space or where road traffic is heavy or congested.

That said, the 2nd SP-RCP project has proved that “line stopping” and “hot tapping” technologies are useful, viable and rational in Penang in the right scenario.

Acknowledgements

On behalf of PBAPP, I would like to thank the main contractor of the 2nd SP-RCP project for completing the project on time and commend the specialist company which implemented the “line stopping” and “hot tapping” work as planned.

I would also like to thank 20 PBAPP personnel for working on-site on 27.1.2026, 28.1.2026 and 29.1.2026 to ensure the safe and timely commissioning of the 2nd SP-RCP.

We also appreciate the kind cooperation and support from the Drainage and Irrigation Department (JPS), the Land Offices of SPU and SPT and the Seberang Perai City Council (MBSP).

Thank You.

Issued by : Syarifah Nasywa bt Syed Feisal Barakbah
Corporate Communications Section
Email : comms@pba.com.my