



In antwoord verwys na nommer
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Xa Uphendula chaza Le Nombolo

/E Louw

31 October 2014

COPPER PIPE PIT CORROSION

Mossel Bay Municipality and the Midbrak Rate Payers Association are in consultation regarding copper pipe pit corrosion reported in the Midbrak Area. The area is largely supplied with water from the Ernest Robertson Dam which is treated at the Sandhoogte Water Treatment Works.

Indications are that although the treated water from the Sandhoogte Water Treatment Works consistently falls within the drinking water parameters of SANS 241/2011 the nature and composition of the water together with the stabilization measures administered during the water treatment process could be one of a number of possible factors contributing to pit corrosion.

The water source from the Ernest Robertson Dam is inherently dark in colour and more so during periods of heavy rainfall. As part of the water treatment process a coagulant is used to bring the dark water to within the colour requirement of SANS 241. To eliminate the coagulant from the list of possible factors contributing to copper pipe pit corrosion the Municipality changed the type of coagulant used at the Sandhoogte Water Treatment Works in mid-August 2014. The Municipality may have to revert back to the previous coagulant following heavy downpours when severe discolouring of the water is usually encountered. Furthermore the effect of the change in coagulant, if any, will not be immediately apparent.

The responsibility and cost of providing and maintaining water installations within the property boundary resides with the home owner. Home owners are therefore advised that incorrect installation of copper pipe plumbing could contribute to copper pipe pit corrosion and premature pipe failures. Please take note of the following:

- Copper pipe systems must be correctly earthed.
- Copper pipes for above ground installations should comply with SANS 460 Class 1.
- Copper pipes for underground installations should comply with SANS 460 Class 2 (non-aggressive soil conditions).
- Correct soldering procedures should be applied.
- New installations should be immediately put into use or drained and dried with compressed air or regularly flushed.
- Plumbing installations should be done by qualified plumbers registered with the Plumbing Industry Registration Board (PIRB)
- Plumbers should issue home owners with a Certificate of Compliance once the plumbing installation has been completed.

The Plumbing Code of Practice may provide some insight for those owners interested in further reading and may be downloaded from:

http://www.coppertubing.co.za/downloads/Plumbing_Code_of_Practice.pdf

For any further enquiries, please contact Eric Louw or Amanda Murray at the Municipality on 044 606 5270 / 044 606 5273.

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