

Attention: News Editors

April 11, 2017

NWC STATEMENT ON NEGRIL WATER SUPPLY

The National Water Commission (NWC) is acutely aware of the difficulties being encountered by some of its valued customers in Negril, served by the Logwood Water Supply System in Hanover.

As a result of an **80%** decline in the volume of water available at the sources for the Logwood Water Supply System, customers especially at the far ends of the network have been experiencing periods of no piped water, intermittent water supply and/or low water pressure.

This is despite the best efforts of the Commission to regulate and manipulate the system, restrict the supply, and extend the Great River Water Supply System to serve areas otherwise served by the Logwood System, so as to use the mere **20%** of normal inflows to meet the needs of Negril and the western end of the system.

As the drought conditions at Logwood worsen and the water available for distribution decreases, the NWC continues to do all that it can to provide the best possible service and to equitably distribute the limited supplies available in the area.

It is to be noted that the present drought-induced challenges on the Logwood Water Supply System are **not** related to inadequacy of the water supply system or network but is a consequence of the sharp decline in the volume of water coming from the blue hole sources which supply the treatment plant. In fact, through years of investing in the water supply infrastructure for Negril, the NWC has a treatment plant capacity of **7.5** million gallons per day,

a plant size informed by available water resources assessment at the time. This is about one third more than the water demand for the area. The NWC also has an extensive pipeline network built with a level of redundancy to serve the area. The problem is that the supply of water at the source, over which the NWC has no control, has dwindled.

While any new development has the potential of increasing the demand for water in an area, it would be misguided and counter-productive to see the new demand as the cause of the problem when the infrastructure is already in place to meet both the existing and new demand. The real problem is an astronomical **80%** decline at the source. In fact, new and planned developments implemented in an orderly, coordinated way add to the justification and economic feasibility for new project financing.

Nothing in the NWC's recent discussions with the Negril Chamber of Commerce should therefore be construed as anti-development or opposed to the further orderly development and growth of Negril and environs.

While the NWC continues to work assiduously to serve customers, we urge everyone to conserve on their use of water, to do whatever they can to protect and improve the Cabarita and Great River watersheds, and partner with the NWC to guarantee future service to the area.

Recognizing the increased challenges created by the unfortunate present reality and that may be made worse by climate change, the NWC has already identified and planned for the development of alternative water supply sources for the area. Arrangements for financing and scheduling of these projects are now under active consideration and the public will be informed as these arrangements advance.

The fact that the NWC has not only identified the problem but also the potential solution, demonstrates our proactiveness and our commitment to the area's continued growth and development.

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CONTACTS: Corporate Public Relations Department