

Umgeni Water looks into recycling waste water

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DURBAN and Pietermaritzburg residents could be drinking purified sewage effluent in future if Umgeni Water decides to build a new wastewater recycling plant.

A meeting to discuss the plan will be held in Pietermaritzburg next Friday by consultancy groups Knight Piesold and Phelamanga Projects.

According to Phelamanga, Umgeni Water had recognised the need to consider reusing wastewater to ensure sound water and environmental management policies.

It said there were several examples in arid and semi-arid regions around the world where recycled water provided an alternative, sustainable resource.

Windhoek, in Namibia, was one example of a city that relied almost entirely on recycling domestic effluent to meet drinking water demands.

“In Umgeni Water’s efforts to meet its mandate in terms of potable water supply, the possibility of the Umlaas Road New Water Project is being investigated. The proposal will be to establish a recycling plant to augment the water supply of the Umlaas Road Reservoir, which services the Msunduzi and eThekweni municipal areas,” it said.

The first option is to locate the new recycling plant at the Darvill wastewater treatment works and abstract semi-treated water, which is usually pumped into the Msunduzi River.

Alternatively, mixed river and semi-treated water would be drawn from the Msunduzi River further downstream from Darvill and pumped to the raw water plant at Umlaas Road for further purification.

Phelamanga said both options required more detailed investigation to identify social and environmental implications.

For more information, contact Phelamanga Projects at telefax 033 386 4465.

